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Véronique Branquinho explores female duality and complexity to create a personal and seductive style.



北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



It's the art, not the sexy pictures. Tang Jiali bares all, or rather doesn't.

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You feel like you're in your own version of Easy Rider.

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Abandoned animals to be given snip

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A sculpture show at the China Multi-subject Expo in Art Room 706 at Beijing's Dashanzi. The event is a part of the Dashanzi International Art Festival 2006.

IC Photo

Drivers use anti-paparazzi glue to stick it to the cops

By Chu Meng

In the US, a kind of glue has become an essential for Hollywood stars. It is used to spray over the windows of their limousines to foil paparazzi. This high-tech product has now found another use by cunning local drivers – preventing traffic police taking their license numbers.

The glue is a kind of transparent gel. It can spray a reflective layer on top of a vehicle's license plate, meaning the number cannot be read when shot by roadside digital or video cameras. Police are then unable to identify drivers who

violate traffic regulations.

In Beijing Shilihe Auto Accessory Market, one of the city's biggest, this kind of glue spray is found for sale in many stores. Apparently, vendors were aware the product is illegal, because none of them had the goods on public display.

A vendor surnamed Li said, "They were imported from America, and shipped from Hong Kong. Originally, they were used by movie stars. They spray it on the windows of cars. Then paparazzi can not photograph them from outside. Later someone happened to discover that it can foil police

digital traffic cameras. Then it became one of the best sellers in our market."

In order to demonstrate its effectiveness, the vendor tried some on the license plate number of a bicycle, which he then photographed with a digital camera from a distance of three meters. Nothing showed up on the screen except a bright block of reflected light. He said that was exactly how the glue works with police cameras.

Li added, "This is the third generation of the product, with an improved water-proof formula, it won't wash off for at least six

months. One digital record of your license could cost you a fine of 200 yuan, plus three points on your driving license. One bottle of the glue is only 220 yuan." He said only mail order sales were possible at present, because of the high risks selling the glue involved.

Yang Xiaogang, a traffic policeman from Chaoyang district, said "The glue can indeed disturb electronic signals. The transparent layer is really hard to notice three meters away by eye, and it's even harder when the vehicle is moving. We are being specially trained to identify it."

Pavement parking scrapped

By Lucky Zhang

A scheme to improve parking in the capital got underway this week receiving a mixed reaction from pedestrians and motorists.

Beijing's Traffic Management Bureau started painting over parking spaces on pavements along 78 avenues in the city on Tuesday.

They insist the changes will free up traffic clogged pavements and improve the parking situation in Beijing.

But some drivers believe the scheme will just make things worse

"It's already very difficult to park cars in Beijing," said Zhang Lixing who drives to work every day, "I have to go to work early in order to find a parking place and go back home early too in order to park near my home. It's even more difficult to find a parking space when I leave work during the day. If parking spaces are removed along the pavements, the situation will be even worse."

Li Guobing, a policeman from the traffic order department of the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau, insisted that painting over parking spaces along the pavements will not mean that cars are stopped from parking in the streets. In some roads and streets near residents' communities, cars may be allowed to park for a limited period and over night, he said.

A pedestrian, who did not want to be named, agreed that scrapping pavement parking was

a good idea. "The car-parking situation is in a mess in Beijing," she said, "The parking spaces along the pavements should have been got rid of a long time ago."

Beijing's Traffic Management Bureau will remove pavement parking in Chang'an Avenue, Ping'an Avenue, Guang'an Avenue and Zhongguancun Nan Avenue. Pegs have already been punched along some of the pavements in Xicheng, Chongwen and Chaoyang districts, stopping cars parking there.

Amsterdam – Beijing Classic Car Rally

By Chen Shasha

The first Amsterdam to Beijing Classic Car Endurance Rally will be held on July 15.

Job Cohen, mayor of Amsterdam, announced the plan for the rally as he visited Beijing to promote tourism between his city and Beijing earlier this week.

During the rally, 200 Dutch adventurers will drive from the Netherlands to China in classic cars. They will travel across 14 countries on two continents between 15 July and 13 August, covering more than 17,500 miles. In total, a 100 teams of two people each will take part in the rally.

"The rally is a part of cooperation between China and Amsterdam," said Job Cohen. A series of contracts will be signed during his visit to China, including student exchange programs between China's top universities and universities in the Netherlands.

The mayor left Beijing yesterday to visit Shanghai and Shenzhen.

Abandoned animals to be given the snip

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Government chiefs are planning the mass sterilization of thousands of Beijing's stray and abandoned cats and dogs.

The Agriculture Bureau of Beijing has submitted a proposal to Beijing Municipal People's Government to provide free sterilization operations for abandoned animals.

They also want to set up special medical organizations for abandoned animals and offer people who take them in an allowance to provide free or half-price medical care. People who adopt abandoned animals will be able to apply for a certificate after the animal is examined and will then be given an allowance to care for it.

Yu Peng, from the Agriculture Bureau, said the Finance Bureau was willing to work with them on the scheme. "We will work together to offer funding for a series of animal saving projects. The proposal will benefit the animals. We are just waiting for government approval."

According to the statistics released by the Animal Saving Association, there are over one million abandoned animals in Beijing. And as they continue to breed the number increases.

Zhengxie commissioner Xu Qin, who came up with the proposal, said, "The government must take responsibility and manage these abandoned animals. Epidemic prevention and sterilization should be the priorities."



Mega dam to be completed

The competition of work at the Three Gorges Dam project Yichang of Hubei Province. The construction of the Three Gorges Dam, set to become the world's largest hydroelectric power project, will be completed nine

months ahead of schedule on May 20. China's State Council has approved the raising of the dams water level in the Three Gorges Reservoir to 156 meters (approximately 511.68 feet). About 80,000 people will be evacuated this

year from areas to be flooded by rising waters behind the colossal dam. The evacuees are among the roughly 1.3 million being moved to make way for the project, according to state media.

CFP Photo

Museums open their doors for free

By Lucky Zhang

Around 60 museums in Beijing will open for free tomorrow as part of the 29th International Museum Day celebrations which kicked off on Thursday.

Many museums, including the Geological Museum of China, the Beijing Art Museum and the China Industrial Art Gallery will also hold special activities until tomorrow.

Drivers support car free day

By Chen Shasha

Over 200,000 drivers have promised to support plans for a car free day being organized in a desperate bid to tackle the city's soaring pollution problems.

Motorists from 79 car clubs signed up to the car free program with Beijing's environment protection center on Monday.

They promised to set aside one day as a car free day every month.

Liu Jingqi, who is running the car free day program, said the scheme had been organized to help cut pollution in the capital.

"Beijing has more than 2600,000 cars and the number is increasing every day," he said. "If everyone left their car at home just one day a month, exhaust fumes would be cut by 44,000 tons."

This is the second year running that the car free day program has been organized.

Drivers interested in taking part can find out more by going to www.bjee.org.cn.

Jianfu Garden given a spruce-up

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Workers finally finished rebuilding the legendary Jianfu Garden, one of Emperor Qianlong's (1736-1795) favorite gardens in the Forbidden City, on Tuesday.

Around one hundred million yuan was spent on rebuilding the garden, which was the first large construction in the Forbidden City since the 1910s. The garden covers 4,074 square meters and

includes a palace, hall, lounge, tower, attic, pavilion, loft, and study. To restore the original image of the buildings, project officials collected much information, references and documents. "A photograph of Puyi (the last emperor of Qing Dynasty) helped a lot", said Zhang Jinian, manager of the project, "The background of the photo is Yuhuding. The roof of that building was the most complicated structure.

Our staff managed to find out the internal structure by studying how it looks from the outside and finally achieved a good imitation of the original."

The internal decoration, however, does not follow the Qing style, but adopts two overseas Chinese architects' design. Cao Kaiwen and Situ Zuo, who used to assist top architect, Ieoh Ming Pei on his Xiangshan Hotel project.

The garden will not be open

Shakespeare first folio on free show tomorrow

By Han Manman

A rare calf-bound 1623 copy of the *First Folio* of Shakespeare's plays will be exhibited at the Beijing St. Regis Hotel tomorrow. Viewing is free.

Considered 'the most important book in English literature,' this folio retains its 17th century calf-skin binding and includes versions of the Bard's great plays like *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Twelfth Night*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

On July 13 this year, Sotheby's in London will auction this



The First Folio of Shakespeare

First Folio. It is expected to fetch more than three million pounds. It is one of the finest copies to appear at auction in London

since the Second World War.

Published seven years after Shakespeare's death, the *First Folio* contains a total of 36 plays, 18 of which had never previously been printed and might otherwise have been lost to posterity. Some 750 copies were printed, about a third of which survive, but are mostly incomplete. The folio is being taken on a world tour to excite interest from international buyers before auction day in London. Next week the book will go on show in Hong Kong.

Reporters detained for extortion

By Jiang Xubo

Four reporters from Beijing-based newspapers were charged with extortion, according to a circular issued this week by the General Administration of the Press and Publications.

The authorities revoked the reporters' credentials,

namely Wang Qiming from China Food Quality Newspaper, Meng Huaihu from China Business Times, Bu Jun from Economy Daily and Chen Jinliang from China Industry News.

Wang, vice director of China Food Quality Newspaper's branch in Sichuan

Province, a media branch set up without official approval, demanded 300,000 yuan (US\$ 37,500) from a local food company early this year after using a fabricated video showing the company producing and selling water-injected pork. Wang was arrested

in March.

The authorities detained the reporters from the other three newspapers' branches in Zhejiang and Henan provinces for extorting money, sometimes as much as tens of thousands of yuan, from local enterprises and individuals.

Underwater Terracotta cavalry museum



By Wang Xiaoyuan

Construction of the underwater Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum was completed this week in Xuzhou, Jiangsu Province. The museum was built under the pond where the relics were first excavated in 1985.

Now the museum is an important part in the west of the Heritage of Han Culture in Xuzhou. It consists of two buildings in the shape of a dou (a Chinese container used to weigh rice). The western one presents the original excavation site; the eastern side features exhibits of terracotta cavalry and documentary footage.

Beijing villager turned movie producer

By Lucky Zhang

A villager from Yanqing District in Beijing who invested 800,000 yuan in his soon to be completed film I am a Policeman believes the film will allow him to realize a childhood dream.

"I had dreamed of being a policeman or a soldier when I was a child. Now, I am more than 60 years old. By producing this film I can realize my dream, to some extent," said Geng Lu.

Geng Lu, who runs a business that makes plastic and steel windows and doors, established a media company last year.

Nearly all his family members have participated in the movie.

Typhoon 'Chanchu' hits South-east China

A PLA soldier helps fishermen whose ship was hit by the typhoon in Taizhou, Zhejiang Province.

Xinhua Photo



Brief news

Medical staff ready for Olympics

The Beijing Olympic Committee has assigned 20 hospitals across the capital to serve the Olympic Games and a total of some 3,000 medical staff.

Newborn iodine deficiency

Some 600,000 to one million newborns, out of the total 20 million born every year, do not get enough iodine, said health official.

75 million SMS each day

On average, mobile phone users across the country send a total of some 75 million short messages each day, according to the Ministry of Information Industry.

Online music makes money

The earnings from network music downloading hit 3.6 billion yuan (US\$ 45 million) last year, said Liu Guoxiong, head of Chinese Audio-Visual Association.

2.6 million websites

The number of websites registered in the country hit 2.6 million at the end of last year and 1.1 million of the websites have the '.cn' domain name, according to the the State Council.

31,000 murders occurred

More than 31,000 homicides cases occurred across the country last year and almost 90 percent of them resulted in a conviction, said the Ministry of Public Security.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Qinghai-Tibet train ready to roll

By Chen Shasha

The first luxury train from Ge'ermu to Lhasa in Tibet will commence services this July, which, together with the newly built Qingzang railway, will reduce the travel time from Beijing to Tibet to only 48 hours.

The luxury train, which will accommodate no more than 100 tourists at a time, cost over 700 million yuan to build. Altitude-related problems will be countered using facilities found on airplanes, and there will also be medical staff on hand.

Guests will have a panoramic view thanks to windows facing all directions. The route will take in many famous scenic spots, including Kunlun Mountain, Hohxil and Potala Palace. The train will have single and family rooms.

There will be Tibetan dancing performances and the train will have Tibetan decor in its interior. The price tag is US\$1,000 per person per day.

Regular, low-priced trains (1,000 yuan less than the cost of a plane ticket) on the Qingzang railway run from July 1.

China and US cooperate on marrow donor program

By Lucky Zhang

The Chinese Marrow Donor Program (CMDP) has signed a collaboration agreement with the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) in the United States.

They will cooperate on sharing marrow resources for the treatment of Chinese leukemia patients in both countries. According to the agreement, both sides will exchange leukemia patients' and marrow donors' files and cooperate in providing services, including hemopoietic stem cells transplants, their collection, as well as examinations.

Established in 1986, NMDP is the largest marrow donor program in the world and has around six million donors on file. However, only 28,000 files are of Chinese donors, which cannot satisfy the need of the Chinese patients in the United States. CMDP was founded in 1992 and has 360,000 donor files.

Crackdown on Internet Café in Capital

Beijing, May 16 (AFP) – Beijing has launched a campaign to bar minors and those thought to be accessing ‘unhealthy content’ from the city’s Internet cafés.

People found to have violated regulations will be severely punished, the China Daily said.

Businesses allowing children to surf the Internet will face punishments ranging from a two-week suspension to a revocation of their business license.

Currently, Internet cafés in China are supposed to register the identity of users and only allow adults to enter.

In 2004, the authority launched a nationwide campaign



More cyber cafés are springing up in Beijing.

AFP Photo

to inspect Internet cafés, leading to 50,000 businesses being closed

down for operating without a license.

However, illegal cafés doing business in suburbs, small towns and the countryside remain a problem.

There are about four million Internet users in Beijing, or one in every three residents.

The country has about 670,000 websites, which has more than 110 million users.

As part of China’s increasing efforts to control cyberspace, authorities are using sophisticated filtering technology and forcing Internet service providers to reveal user information.

They also ban many portals to eliminate ‘harmful’ content including pornography, violence and politically sensitive material from their websites.

Beijing Unicom will not cut fees like Beijing Mobile



IC Photo

Shanghai, May 15 (Interfax) – Beijing Communication, a China Netcom subsidiary in the capital city, will not follow Beijing Mobile’s fee-cutting plan, Beijing Communication spokesman Li Litao told Interfax.

“Currently, we do not have any Xiaolingtong fee-cutting scheme. Domestic reports that we will announce such a plan soon are completely inaccurate,” Li said.

Last week, Beijing Mobile announced its fee-cutting plan, while Beijing Unicom applied to lower its fees too. The two mobile operators’ moves are considered a considerable threat to Beijing Communication. Many Xiaolingtong subscribers transferred to other mobile operators last year when they lowered their fees.

Beijing Communication is planning to launch several low-cost per month Xiaolingtong packages that will be much cheaper than Beijing Mobile’s.

The plan has been submitted to Beijing Communications Administration and the company is waiting for official approval.

Currently, Beijing Communication has over 2.26 million Xiaolingtong subscribers.

Interview with the reporter:

Q: Do you have problems with pornographic websites and teenage surfers back home?
A: So far as I know, people, including teenagers in the US,

are free to access any website they want to view.

Q: Do you have any Internet cafés in the US?

A: Maybe there are some, but not so many, as people have

their own computers at home and in the library.

Q: How do you prevent kids from being trapped into online frauds?

A: It all depends on their own capability.

Parents will monitor and

prevent their children from the pornographic sites. We depend more on self morality and management, instead of laws and regulations.

— Cindy Sui,
 AFP Beijing

Beijing suffers worst drought in 50 years

Beijing, May 13 (AFP) – China’s capital is suffering its worst drought in 50 years, prompting the government to monitor rainfall at sites to be used during the 2008 Beijing Olympics, state media reported.

Rainfall in Beijing has amounted to only 17 millimeters (0.68 inches) this year, down 63 percent from the same period last year.

The lack of rain is challenging the city’s water supply, government experts said at a meeting aimed at fighting a seven-year drought.

In an apparent effort to minimize the impact on the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the government has called for the monitoring of rainfall at all Olympic venues, the report said.

With only 1.31 billion cubic meters (1.7 billion cubic yards) of water presently in the city’s 16 large and medium-sized reservoirs, the capital is facing a serious water shortage, *Xinhua* said.

Water consumption in the capital last year totaled 3.45 billion cubic meters, including 1.49 billion cubic meters of drinking water.

Adding to the shortage is a population that has grown dramatically in recent years to over 15.3 million permanent residents and over four million migrants.

The municipal government has ordered meteorologists to “take every opportunity to create artificial rain in reservoir areas,” the report said.

Lost sounds of old Beijing

Beijing, May 15 (National Public Radio) – Old Beijing was a city of unique sounds – sounds used to mark time, to advertise goods and services, or just to tickle the ear.

In the run-up to the 2008 Olympics, Beijing is tearing down many of its historic districts to make way for high-rise apartments and office towers. In the process, the sounds of the city’s old neighborhoods are gradually falling silent.

The city used to be a maze of hutongs, or alleyways, lined with one-story houses. At dawn and dusk, the sound of huge drums would reverberate out from a tower near the city center. The sound brought order to the days of emperors and commoners alike.

Sound carried a long way in old Beijing. The city used to be a maze of hutongs, or alleyways, lined with one-story houses. At dawn and dusk, the sound of huge drums would reverberate out from a tower near the city center. The sound brought order



Traditional drum performance in Beijing

AP Photos

to the days of emperors and commoners alike.

At night, the time was marked by the deep sound of a 63-ton bronze bell, hanging in its own tower next to the drum tower. Today, the bell and drums are sounded mostly for tourists.

Merchants roamed the hutongs, delivering goods and services to doorsteps. Each merchant had a distinctive noisemaker or hawker’s cry.

As a teenager, Zhang Zhenyu-an followed his father through

the alleys fixing wooden barrels. He learned the cries of his trade and those of other hawkers. He also collected noisemakers. Now he performs with them as a kind of folk art.

Zhang, now 70, recalls the simpler times of his youth.

“We hawkers feel very nostalgic for the old days, when we were young,” he says. “In those days, people were very honest. People didn’t steal or rob. When I was little, we never locked our front doors.”



Interview with the reporter:

Q: Why did you choose nostalgia as a topic?

A: Many Americans don’t know the real life of Chinese; also, the hutongs are a symbol of Beijing and the place where

these voices were once heard.

Q: How do you preserve traditional culture back in the US?

A: It’s inevitable that old traditions disappear with development. But they can stay alive in people’s minds and hearts.

After my report was broadcast, I received a letter from an old lady in New Jersey, saying it reminded her of the cries of fruit and vegetable sellers in her hometown when she was a child.

We can still hear and find carts selling ice-creams throughout the US.

Q: Do you have any recommendations for the municipal government to preserve these traditional cultures?

A: Unlike you, I’m a bit pessimistic.

Local authorities should first identify valuable heritage that needs to be saved.

Saving does not mean rebuilding or recreating.

The third problem is the skills and crafts required. That is also an important part of traditional cultures we need to save.

— Anthony Kuhn,
 NPR, Beijing

Interview with the reporter:

Q: Why do you choose this topic to report?

A: First, we have a ‘China Telecom Weekly’ for our readers and clients.

Secondly, both UniCom and MobileCom are big companies. Their moves are important to the investors. We have news clients throughout the world demanding such reports.

Q: How is the mobile telecommunication market in Russia?

A: The market is quite small, compared with that in China. And the charges are a little bit higher too.

Q: Why don’t they cooperate with Chinese companies to develop the market?

A: They do.

So far as I know, Huawei has been exporting equipment to Russia over the years. And the cooperation is expanding.

— Gill Christopher,
 Interfax, Shanghai

BOC confirms Hong Kong listing

Beijing, May 18 (AFP) – The Bank of China announced it will launch its long-awaited initial public offering in Hong Kong and hopes to raise more than US\$11 billion.

The mainland's second largest bank said Wednesday at a press conference in Hong Kong the IPO period would last for one week from Thursday, with public trading to begin on June 1.

It will offer just over 25.57 billion H shares in the global offering with a maximum share price of HK\$3.00 for a total of around US\$9.8 billion.

The net proceeds of the global offering will be about US\$8.73 billion after deducting underwriting fees and estimated expenses, bank chairman Xiao Gang said.

It will offer an over-allotment of just over 3.83 billion shares if there is a substantial over-subscription, bringing the total sum

the bank could raise in the listing to more than US\$11.37 billion.

Xiao added that the bank hopes to raise an additional US\$2.5 billion by issuing 10 billion A shares on the domestic Shanghai stock exchange by July 2007.

The Bank of China has the most extensive international branch network among mainland Chinese commercial banks. It boasts over 11,000 branches and outlets, the bank said.

Its core business is commercial banking, which mainly consists of corporate banking, personal banking and treasury operations.

The Bank of China will be the second of China's four major state-owned commercial banks to list in Hong Kong after the China Construction Bank went public last October and raised US\$8 billion.



Bank of China confirms Hong Kong listing and aims to raise over US\$11 bln. AFP Photo

Beijing ends ban on firm's share sales

Beijing, May 16 (Bloomberg News) – China has lifted a one-year ban on share sales, giving publicly traded companies more funding options to expand in an economy that grew 10.2 percent in the first quarter.

Companies must meet 34 criteria to be eligible to sell stock, including three successive years of profit and dividend payments equal to at least 20 percent of income, according to a statement posted Sunday on the China Securities Regulatory Commission Web site. Initial public offerings are still prohibited, it said.

Ending the ban will widen access to capital as interest rates rise and generate underwriting fees for securities firms.

"Companies are hungry for capital," said Jiang Jianrong, an analyst at Shenying Wanguo Securities in Shanghai.

China's government halted sales last May to avoid a glut of equity as it sought to make more than US\$200 billion of mostly state-owned stock tradable. Listed companies representing 70 percent of China's total market capitalization have already taken such steps.

"This is another step toward China resuming initial public offerings," said Danny Lai, an analyst at Core Pacific-Yamaichi International in Hong Kong. "People have been expecting some good companies to sell shares."

Ernst & Young says probing Chinese bad loan gaffe

Beijing/Shanghai, May 16 (Reuters) – Accounting giant Ernst & Young said it was investigating how it had wrongly estimated Chinese bad loans at more than US\$900 billion in a report it had had to withdraw amid great embarrassment.

Ernst & Young, which employs 4,500 people in mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau, withdrew its widely watched report on bad loans on Friday, a day after China's central bank labeled it 'ridiculous.'

The London-based firm acknowledged that estimate of US\$911 billion in Chinese bad loans could not be supported and was believed to be "factually erroneous."

In a fresh statement issued to Reuters on Monday, Ernst & Young said it would do its best to avoid any repeat.

Ernst & Young is the official auditor for the upcoming listing of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the nation's largest bank by assets, which is expected to sell shares

to the public before the end of the year.

The gaffe could deal a blow to the firm's efforts to win or maintain lucrative business deals from Chinese clients.

Official figures released by China's banking regulator put its bad loans at 1.31 trillion yuan (US\$164 billion) at the end of March, less than a fifth the estimate given by Ernst & Young.

Western analysts have long suspected that the true sum of China's bad loans is far higher than the official figures show.

China says Vale's iron ore price accord won't set a benchmark

May 17 (Bloomberg) – China says the 19 percent increase in iron ore prices agreed between Cia Vale do Rio Doce and Germany's ThyssenKrupp AG hasn't set a global benchmark for the steel-making ingredient.

Baosteel Group Corp., Nippon Steel Corp. and Arcelor SA set benchmark prices for buyers, said Qi Xiangdong, vice chairman of China Iron & Steel Association.

In previous years, the first agreement between a major steel-maker and producer has set the global benchmark price for the steelmaking ingredient. Japanese and Chinese steelmakers are likely to accept higher iron ore



China imported 108.19 million tonnes of iron ore in the first four months of 2006, up 23.5 percent from a year earlier.

Reuters Photo

prices this year, Merrill Lynch & Co. said today.

"The price settled between CVRD and ThyssenKrupp is not a

global benchmark; it's not even a benchmark for Europe. This deal only represents a price agreed upon between individual companies," Qi said from Beijing. "For 2006 price talks, the buyer representatives to settle benchmark prices are Baosteel, Nippon Steel and Arcelor."

Earlier reports say China is set to import 301 million tons iron ore this year, an increase of 10 percent from 2005, to produce 384 million tons of crude steel.

Last year, China imported 275 million tons of iron ore and produced 349 million tons of crude steel, according to the China Iron and Steel Association.

HP China to hire over 1,000

Beijing, May 14 (People's Daily) – Hewlett-Packard (HP) plans to recruit more than 1,000 workers on the Chinese mainland by the end of this year.

The aggressive move, experts says, underlines that China is becoming a source of talent for multinationals, instead of merely a manufacturing center and a market.

About one fourth of the 1,078 vacant posts are for research and development (R&D) staff members.

Mitsubishi Pharma to set R&D center

Tokyo, May 14, 2006 (Japanese Corporate News) – Mitsubishi Pharma announced on May 11 that it will set up a pharmaceutical development subsidiary in Beijing in October.

To be capitalized at US\$1 million, Mitsubishi Pharma R&D (Beijing) (provisional name) will initially employ about 10 people.

The Chinese pharmaceutical market is estimated at 1.2 trillion yen (US\$10.6 billion), and is expected to grow rapidly.

BOI first to open in Beijing

Beijing, May 17 (PTI) – Bank of India will become the first Indian bank to open a representative office in Beijing next Monday.

The office will serve as a liaison and consultancy for Indian and Chinese companies.

Bank of India came to China in January 2003 by opening its first reps office in Shenzhen. The office has received license to conduct normal banking operations.

Last month, the State Bank of India's Shanghai office had become the first Indian bank to start full-fledged banking operations in China.

Canara Bank and ICICI Bank also have offices in Shanghai.

Microsoft pushes Windows mobile

London, May 13 (vnunet.com) – Microsoft and China TechFaith Wireless agreed to promote the use of WindowsMobile in China.

Based on the Windows Mobile and Windows Media technologies, the partnership covers smartphone and entertainment handset product development, application development, collaborative sales and marketing, and an exchange of talent and technology.

Asahi breweries to build new plant

Tokyo, May 14 (AP) – Asahi Breweries will invest 4 billion yen (US\$36 million) to build a new plant in China amid intensifying competition in China's beer market, the world's biggest.

The plant, to be built in the southern city of Huzhou in Zhejiang province, will start production in May 2007 with an annual production capacity of 26 million gallons.

Fake medicine kills five

By Qiu Jiaoning

The deaths of five people in Guangdong Province after they used fake medicine produced by Qiqihar No. 2 Pharmaceutical has led China's State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) to issue a nationwide ban on the use of all pharmaceuticals made by the company.

At least six others have become seriously ill after using the same fake medicine, five of whom are still in a serious condition, with only one person now recovered, according to Cao Yongwen, director of Qiqihar's municipal Food and Drug Administration.

The main ingredient of the fake medicine, Armillarisin A, should be propylene glycol, but Qiqihar No. 2 Pharmaceutical used the much cheaper diglycol instead, said Cao. This toxic propylene, an industrial material normally used in the manufacture of pesticides, can cause breathing difficulties, paralysis and kidney failure in humans. Armillarisin A is designed to treat gall bladder, liver and gastric disorders.

The SFDA has investigations pending in Heilongjiang, Guangdong and Jiangsu provinces, and a nationwide campaign to recall millions of doses of the fake medicine that have been distributed across the country. Qiqihar No. 2 Pharmaceutical in Heilongjiang Province has recalled 600 ampules of fake Armillarisin A sold in Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi Province, Cao said. Heilongjiang authorities have confiscated a further 1.2 million ampules of the drug.

In preliminary investigation results, inspectors found serious flaws in the manufacturing process of the Qiqihar pharmaceutical plant, Cao said.

Inspectors found serious flaws in the manufacturing process of the Qiqihar pharmaceutical plant; fake material was passed off as a normal ingredient.



Millions of ampules of the fake medicine were seized by health authorities.

The fake material was passed off as a normal ingredient, which quality inspectors failed to detect. The former state-owned company, with more than 300 employees, was privatized last year.

Local police have detained Wang Guiping, who is an employee of Jiangsu Taixing Chemical and sold the fake pro-

pylene glycol to Qiqihar No. 2 Pharmaceutical. The SFDA has issued a nationwide warning to pharmaceutical companies not to use propylene glycol bought from Taixing. Both Qiqihar No. 2 Pharmaceutical in Heilongjiang Province and Jiangsu Taixing Chemical have been shut down.

The scandal first came to



Several who took the fake medicine were hospitalized. Xinhua Photo

Rescue for illegal gold diggers trapped in mine

By Jiang Xubo

Four gold diggers trapped in a collapsed mine in the mountains of Beijing's eastern outskirts were finally rescued on Wednesday, almost two days after the accident.

"It was cold inside and we had no food. We had to dig our way out step by step," said 21-year-old Wang Xiaohai, the youngest of the four, who are all farmers.

The group, suffering from slight dehydration and minor injuries, were taken to hospital.

They had survived because the shaft's ventilation system remained intact.

Some 1,000 policemen, firefighters, troops, villagers and mine rescuers had rushed to the rescue of the trapped farmers. Municipal authorities directed the rescue operation.

The farmers, all villagers from Heishuiwan Village in Jinhaihu Township, broke into the gold mine for illegal mining on Monday morning, without any food or water.

When they did not return home on Monday night, Wang's family went to the villagers for help. Some 1,000 villagers climbed the mountain to search for the group with torches in early hours of Tuesday morning but failed to find them. They called the police that afternoon.

The local government shut down the mine two years ago to prevent landslides caused by piled slag produced in the mining process. Gold digging has been strictly prohibited ever since, but the gold diggers managed to sneak into the mine past local police who patrol the site almost every day.

A man was killed in the mine last June when he tried to mine gold using explosives.

Many poverty-stricken villagers living nearby have managed to scrape together a living by digging in the mine.



One of the rescued miners recovers from his ordeal. Xinhua Photo

Contracting out sees KFC embroiled in labor dispute

By Annie Wei

A group of 28 employees of Beijing KFC, all workers at the company's warehouse, have requested legal aid from the Beijing Zhicheng Law Firm in a bid to protect their labor rights.

The group, which includes people who have worked for KFC for periods of between three and thirteen years, began to be concerned about their relationship with their employers after hearing about the case of a former colleague, Xu Yang. Xu, a young man from Shandong, is currently suing Beijing KFC at the Dongcheng District Court.

Xu says he began working for Beijing KFC in 1994. In April 2004, Beijing KFC told their staff they would be signing a contract with a labor agency, and that in future their pay-checks and social insurance would be handled by the agency. Xu said that many of his fellow workers opposed this

move, seeing no reason to sign contracts with another company after having worked for KFC for a long time. But because they feared losing their jobs if they did not, all the staff went ahead and signed the new contract.

Last year, Xu was fired after making a mistake at work. Xu believes that he now suffers from rheumatism as a result of his employment in KFC's refrigerated warehouse and is seeking compensation and labor insurance payments for 11 years.

KFC rejected Xu's claims, and so he is now suing them. In court, lawyers representing KFC said that the company was not Xu's direct employer, and that Xu is suing the wrong person. The court has yet to reach a verdict in the case.

In a press release issued this week, KFC claim there is nothing wrong in their failure to sign a contract with Xu. The statement

read, "There are two employment systems in KFC. One is to hire employees directly and the other is to hire staff via an agency."

Xu Yuling, the lawyer from Zhicheng Law Firm representing Xu Yang and also the group of 28 other KFC employees, said that KFC had in fact directly hired these people, and had not introduced the agency into the relationship until 2004, and that, "This fact is undeniable."

Xu Yuling added that his legal team were busy identifying the other 28 plaintiffs, as well as collecting proof to clarify their employment relationship with KFC.

China's labor law makes no specific provisions concerning the hiring of staff through a third party, leaving who should be responsible for compensation, insurance or ending a contract unclear.

"The whole case will depend heavily on the judge," Xu

Yuling said.

Xiang Zhuming, a porter and one of the group of 28 employees, said he started working for KFC in 1994, and he felt like he had been sold.

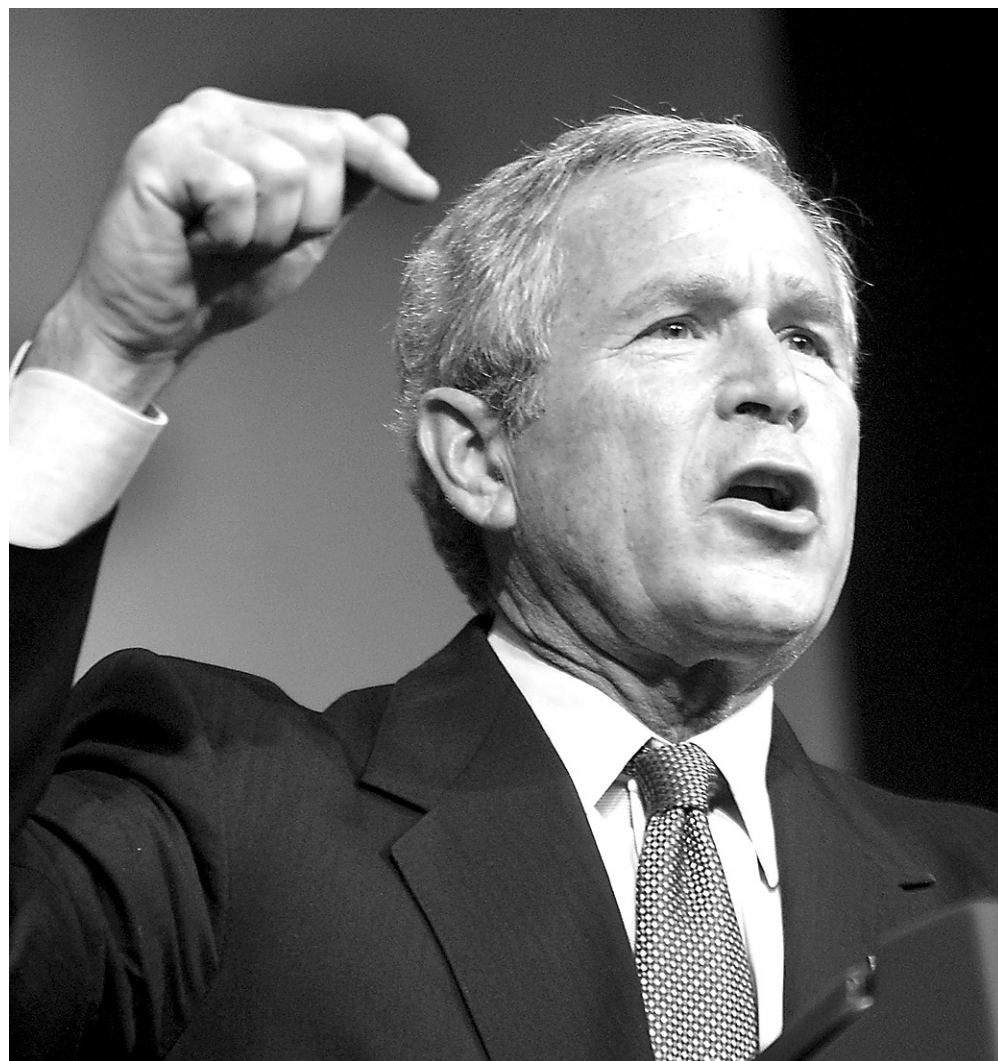
Xiang said he did not have a copy of his new contract because he did not feel any connection with the labor agency. "We did not know what it was and where it is," Xiang said, "We work for KFC."

Although he was forced to sign a new contract, Xiang recalled nothing different from before. He was paid the same and did the same work. KFC still gave him work-related training. Any issues staff had were only dealt with by KFC's human resources department.

Explaining why the workers had sought legal aid, Xiang said, "We hope KFC will change their employment practices and that our benefits can be protected."

US President George W. Bush speaks at the Republican National Committee Gala May 17, 2006 at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, DC. Bush defended his domestic spying program and also spoke about immigration reform.

CFP Photo



Big Brother is watching ... us???

By Emily Messner

ABC News reports that "the government is tracking the phone numbers we call in an effort to root out confidential sources" – this according to, well, ABC's confidential sources.

According to the post at ABC's Blotter blog, sources also say

the CIA leak investigation has included the examination of "phone calls and contacts" not just from ABC, but also from the New York Times and – you guessed it – The Washington Post. The writers of the story specifically say this is not a case of phone tapping, but "a pattern

of phone calls from a reporter ... could provide valuable clues for leak investigators" about the identity of the reporter's confidential source.

If true, this is doubleplusun-good.

Debaters?

(Washington Post)

Comments:

Why should journalists be exempt from a practical investigative tool?

– Will

Why should journalists have their privacy invaded?

– Geb

Why not just break into the office of Daniel Ellsberg to find out if he was the source of the Pentagon Papers leak ... oh yea, that's been done...

– Sully

Next we'll be hearing about the 'Thought Police'. Get ready.

– Swordman

First we must admit that the USA has entered into a stage of Fascism that is unique. On one hand we profess freedom and the other the Bush

regime is copying Nazi Germany.

Where are our leaders when we need them to speak out against what we have become as a nation? I am ashamed to be an American.

God help us

– Dr. Leo Casino

It's obvious that the government is using the media as it's propaganda tool, with it's own sources who 'leak' what they want America to believe about their nefarious undertakings.

This is a battle that has no beginning or end, it's just at it's most extreme now with the Fascist State we have created to protect us from the 'enemy'. I met the enemy and he is us.

– trickdog

Why should we assume that

they aren't doing more than just collecting phone numbers? Without the Press doing investigative work and without an official inquiry we will never know to what extent this Big Brother is going to set up systems of spying that could easily be used for whatever other purposes they desire.

– eric

I can't believe that no one has mentioned the simple premise of the American system of law, i.e. innocent before proven guilty.

When the NSA collects the telephone records of the public, they are presuming we are guilty! Guilty of what? Guilty of having a conversation with a person?

– Fedup

(By Jiang Xubo)

Google trends – great if it rains

By Simon Jeffery

Google Trends is so good we had to have it on here.

What it does is give you the background behind search terms – where the requests originate from (cities or countries) and how their frequency varies over time. Some you could already guess – requests for Athens spiked during the Olympic Games, but others are more surprising – David Beckham, as a proportion of that country's searches, is most inquired about in Venezuela (Indonesia comes second).

It is the kind of thing that makes you wonder where the hours went. So far I've discovered a steady decline in people who want to see Britney Spears naked (the heaviest concentra-

tion of them in Perth).

Andrew Sullivan is among those taking this to the next stage, using Google Trends data to build theories. He suggests the high number of sex searches in Muslim countries (Poland comes out top among majority Christian nations) has something to do with repression – we also learn sheep sex is most searched for in Ireland.

John Battelle, who argues Google's search records are an index of our needs, wants and desires, thinks the company's database of intentions is finally being valued for what it is.

Face it – the summer weather isn't going to hold past this evening – a weekend in pursuit of web trivia beckons.

(The Guardian)

Comments

The top ten cities looking for God are in the states, the top ten looking for Satan are also in the states.

The Danes like hard work. And the top ten cities looking for leisure are all in the UK.

– integral

Well, according to the search I just did, the top ten cities for sex are Cairo, Delhi, Chennai (India), Ankara, Mumbai, Istanbul, Warsaw, Zurich, Brussels, and Chicago.

So now you know where to go.

– Szwagier

As a gay, I typed in many things to do with gay sex and it was truly amazing that Manchester and Birmingham were the two cities that consistently were at the top. I guess I need to think about emigrating from the states to one of those cities.

– NewDem

I just tried a search for 'conspiracy theory'. The number one region is South Africa, and the number one city is Edinburgh. What are 'they' not telling us?

– Szwagier

The UK is the top country searching for a 'Dentist'.

The USA is the top country searching for 'Common Sense', 'Enlightenment' and 'Impeach Bush'.

– ThomasCopyrightMMVI

I typed in 'george bush', and in the region section #1 was USA, #2 UK. With 'tony blair', #1 UK, USA was... #9!!! So much for the 'special relationship'

– hairyfrog

India is the top country searching for 'A Wife'

Meanwhile Huston is the top city searching for 'A Part Time Lover'.

– Leftolefty

(By Jiang Xubo)

Weekly topics

Newsweek (USA)

1. Dickey: has Kaddafi changed?
2. Pricing global warming
3. Samuelson: why we avoid immigration's hard truths
4. Hirsh: the real lesson from Libya
5. Fineman: the political unpopularity contest

New York Times (USA)

1. Conservative Christians warn republicans against inaction
2. Hey Democrats, why win?
3. Notes are said to reveal close Cheney interest in a critic of Iraq policy
4. Bush aide defends eavesdropping on phone calls
5. Building a brand with a blog

The Daily Telegraph (UK)

1. Markets braced for the worst
2. Chavez offers cheap oil to Britain's poor

3. Chelsea open the betting
4. Vast losses in copper mayhem
5. MoD cost cuts 'will put troops in peril'

Toronto Star (Canada)

1. A Chinese puzzle on a lonely hilltop
2. Why things end badly with asparagus
3. Human-chimp split took 4M years: Study
4. 'Dot-ca' speculators get \$2.5M payday
5. Man faces impaired charge in fatal accident

The Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

1. It's over - but we'll always remain friends
2. PM's son in the slaughterhouse
3. Marsden dies on holiday
4. Still the man: Mundine wins a shot at the world
5. Death in post-bout brawl

(By Jiang Xubo)

The world's DJs tear up Beijing

Langstump from Italy (left) and Siuli from Dutch



By Chen Shasha

At the third Asia Europe music camp, a program named *I'm Pulse* was held in Beijing. Twenty emerging DJs from 15 countries gathered to share their musical experiences and perform.

The program was set by the Asia-Europe foundation (ASEF) to provide a platform for young people to exchange their ideas on music.

Vanini Belarmino, who works in the culture exchange department of the ASEF, said "It can also give artists opportunities to know different cultures." Meeting and Greeting, participating DJs were asked to introduce themselves, their music and the DJ scene in their homeland.

An open agenda meeting followed, where they talked about interesting things they had seen in China. During the one-week trip to Beijing, the DJs talked to both professionals and audi-

ences. The Sick girls music group from Germany said, "It gave us a lot of inspiration talking to people in China. I think there are no gaps for nations and ages in music."

China is still in the early stages of developing electronic music. "Few DJ facilities are offered in China's market," said Pauline Doutreluingne, an artist from Belgium. "But I believe it will flourish."

The music camp is a part of the flagship project held by the cultural exchange department of ASEF.

The other parts contain a forum for young photographers, a dance forum and an art camp. According to Vanini, this program serves as an interface between cultural policy makers on the one hand, and cultural practitioners – artists – on the other hand.

There will be live performances by the DJs from 15 countries in Tango on May 19 to 20.

DJ Latrama from Spain (left) and Krist from Indonesia
Photos provided by ASEF

Italian spring brings lots to do

By Chu Meng

Spring has arrived in Beijing, hot and sudden. Hot weather means the recreation and entertainment season. Different embassies bid to promote cultural communications with China. Italy is surely one of the most complaisants.

This weekend in Beijing Natural History Museum, an exhibition in honor of Leonardo Da Vinci, the inventor of science and technology in the Renaissance has been arranged. Through serigraphic copying, it displays over 50 amazing models of machinery made with material and techniques used at the time. The exhibition is very innovative as it offers a view of Leonardo's creativity in the context of the technological achievements of his time: while Leonardo's genius gets all the credit it deserves, the very advanced engineering levels of his predecessors are also highlighted. It will be a wonderful accompaniment to the new movie the *Da Vinci Code*.

Walking out of museum, you can pop right into Beizhan Theater the same day. Kataklo, the world famous Athletic Dance Theater featuring Italian former Olympic athletes and gymnasts, is there waiting for you. They're performing the *Fair Play*, an acrobatic dance show that evokes time passing, a ball suspended in the sky, a run that becomes a dance, objects that animate themselves to show us, through their eyes, things that we cannot see with our own. At the end, we discover that the natural connection between sport and dance gives rise to a new and universal form of art: like music, it does not need translation; like sport, it excites the emotions; like poetry, it evokes other works.

If you are the kind of person who likes to indulge in two-dimensional images, *Glory to Source*, a retrospective exhibition by Hsiao Chin from 1955 to 2005 in Beijing National Art Museum of China is perfect for you. Hsiao has merged the eastern and western cultural and artistic concepts, creating a very personal style, which focuses on the spiritual search over the union between Man and Universe. He has exhibited all over the world and his works are displayed in more than 40 art museums worldwide. In 2005, he was conferred the honor of 'Knight of the Order of the Star of Solidarity' by Italian President CA Ciampi.

'Does my bike look big in this?' – CJ 750: the ultimate expat accessory

By Tom Mackenzie

The popularity of sidecar motorcycles, for many the ultimate in Beijing expat accessories, has never been greater say traders.

Some claim to have sold more Changjiang 750s (or *kuazi*) in the first four months of this year than in the whole of 2005. And with increasing numbers of expats choosing to export the iconic World War II era bikes and summer fast approaching, that trend looks set to continue.

"These bikes have been popular among the expatriate community for some time but recently they really seem to have taken off," said bike seller Bill Eng, who runs website www.cj750.net. "A lot of Europeans love the bikes because they remind them of their grandparents who used to ride them. More people are exporting them to the west – back home lots of people own Harleys, but the cj750s remain pretty unique. The bikes are also worth a lot more back in the States or Europe. And we're seeing increasing numbers of Chinese buying them."

The design of the Changjiang 750s has not changed since the bikes were first built by BMW in the 1930s on the orders of Hitler. When the Russians invaded Germany in 1945, at the end of the Second World War,

they pinched the technology. Stalin later gave the designs to his theological buddy, Mao as a "Gift of friendship from Russia to China".

Kuazi were first manufactured in China around 1951 by the Nan Chang Airplane Manufacturing Factory. Production ceased in 1997 but dozens of specialists continue to recondition and sell the bikes in Beijing's suburbs.

They can be picked up for anything between 3,500 and 35,000 yuan, depending on their age and condition.

Fans claim *kuazi* are safer than bicycles, cheaper than taking taxis and cooler than cars. And Beijing, surrounded by hills and a stone's throw from the Great Wall, is considered the perfect city for sidecar motorcyclists.

Musician Giles Tully, 25, forked out 10,000 yuan for his bike last August and reckons it was money well spent.

"They're the coolest possible bikes you can buy," he said. "When you're riding through Beijing on a cj750 you feel like you're in your own version of Easy Rider."

"You have to put up with more traffic than you would if you were riding a standard bike but it's a lot safer. It's also a lot cheaper than getting a taxi.



Giles Tully and his 10,000-yuan bike

Photo by Tom Mackenzie

"The first time you take to the road is a scary experience because Beijing drivers are pretty crazy. But if you learn to drive as if anyone at any point could pull into you, you'll be fine – you have to drive defensively, like you could be killed at any time."

Top tips for first time buyers

Changjiang specialists Mr Zhang (136 5120 1816) and Bill Eng (130 3119 5542) on the south side of Bei'erhuan Lu offer a good range of bikes. For more infor-

mation go to www.cj750.net.

As well as the bike, you will also need (in theory at least) a license plate, road tax and insurance. Your mechanic should arrange all of these for you.

Find a good mechanic – the chances are your bike will break down on a fairly regular basis so you will need someone who can come out to you.

To take part in Changjiang road trips with other enthusiasts in and around Beijing go to www.mycj750.com.

'Adopt a village' to celebrate Israeli National Day

By Han Manman

On its 58th Independence Day on Tuesday, the Israeli Embassy celebrated the day in an unusual way. They adopted a village in China.

The village named Xiaoliuge-zhuang is located in Daxing District in the southern suburbs of Beijing. Dr Yehoyada Haim, the Israeli ambassador said that the idea was discussed with the Beijing Municipal Government, and Xiaoliugezhuang Village was deemed an appropriate choice. It's comparatively poor and needs lots of help. The project is called 'Join Hands Facing the New Countryside'.

The embassy has also recruited around 20 Israeli companies and individuals, who contribute either by equipment or funds to the project for the villagers in areas of agriculture, education, health and

community culture.

After a professional visit of a team of doctors and consultations with the local government, the Israeli embassy decided to help update the clinic's equipment. On Tuesday morning, after the unveiling of a plaque by ambassador Haim and Niu Yucheng, Vice Mayor of Beijing, the renovated village clinic opened.

The clinic is the only one in the village with three doctors, which serves approximately 5,000 residents from the surrounding area. The clinic doctor Chang Hong said, "This advanced equipment will help us diagnose patients."

Money will also go to the regional school, Sun Ying elementary. Children from six villages in the area are educated here. The Israeli embassy estab-

lished a library and built an integrated playground and uniform tracksuits were given to every teacher and student in the school. After a football match between the school students and the children of the Israeli diplomats, Vice Mayor Niu Yucheng and ambassador Haim couldn't resist the urge to play table tennis. After a heavy beating, ambassador Haim laughed, "Chinese are all good at Ping Pong? Next time, I want to invite you to have a football match."

Agriculture also got a makeover. New equipment and new technology was provided for the village's irrigation, greenhouses and dairy farm.

"It is not just a one day project, the Israeli embassy together with Israeli companies in China will have continuous contact with the village for further coopera-

tion and assistance," said ambassador Haim when finished the whole day activities in the village. According to the ambassador, two Chinese agriculture experts

have already gone to Israel to receive training and two Israeli experts will be coming to China next week to give a special training to the village.



Football between school students and the children of the Israeli diplomats
Photos provided by Israeli Embassy

Driving for the pink ribbon

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Players from different countries from Beijing Ladies' Golf Club (BLG) played a great stroke this Thursday. They held the Pink Ribbon Golf Tournament to raise money for the Breast Disease Center of the

Beijing United Medical College Hospital (BUMCH).

Over fifty ladies participated and showed their skills. The event was a combination of serious golf and novel events, which appealed to players of all levels. Besides nearest to the pin and longest

drive, there was also a nearest line and nearest to the water competition, which gave every participant the chance to win a prize.

Eleven ladies won prizes. The overall winner was Ruth Lee, who shook up a magnum of champers to celebrate the

victory. The tournament collected over 70,000 yuan for the hospital, 10,000 more than expected.

Dr Enling Ma, from the Beijing Union Medical College Hospital said that she was delighted by the generosity.

Teaching kids about AIDS

By Tom Mackenzie

Gabriel Suk has taken on a massive challenge – to educate China's 60 million primary school kids about AIDS.

His charity, Prevention Through Education (PTE), aims to tackle the myths about the disease and, ultimately, save tens of thousands, maybe even millions, of lives.

And it is through working with schools, to educate children from an early age, that Gabriel and his team hope to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

"China has an enormous problem of discrimination against people with HIV getting discriminated against," he said, "and too many people still don't know that medicine and treatment can now prolong people's lives for 10 to 20 years."

Since its foundation in 2005, the charity has worked with four schools and around 400 pupils. PTE staff educate the children, who are aged 12 to 14, about the discrimination faced by HIV/AIDS sufferers, tell them how the disease is transmitted, teach them about treatments and even tell them where they can get tested. And later this year the charity will start a teacher training program to get school staff spreading the message.

"We teach kids how the treatments work and we tell them that everybody needs to get tested," said Gabriel. "HIV is something they will have to continue to deal with."

For more information on PTE or to make a donation go to www.ptc-china.org or email Gabriel.suk@gmail.com

English summer camp coming soon

By Annie Wei

This summer, Concordia Language Village, who have been sponsored by Concordia

College since 1961, plan to organize their first summer camp in Beijing.

They are looking for around

200 students from grade three to grade six primary to experience 'citizenship in a global community'.

Compared with the other summer camps in China, the CLV camp looks for students with a certain English level.

Beijing crashes at utmost speed squash

By Elly Zhen

The Kempinski-cup Four Sites Squash Tournament (Beijing-Shanghai-Hongkong-Macau) ended recently, though 4th place fails to represent the strength of the Beijing team.

Losing 3-2 to Shanghai (last time Beijing won 4-1), Beijing's final result was really influenced by psychological weakness from the players. Besides the clear victory of Ren Zengli over Cai Pinghua for 3-1, even after an injury to Ren's right arm, and the conclusive supremacy of Peng Yongyi over Han Wenjing (3-0). Saeed, playing strong Australian Esdon Lee, lost 3-2 in a match, where he played wonderfully for the first 3 games, but then wasted two match balls in the 3rd game.

The members of the Beijing Team were all amateur players, who were selected from the very first squash league in China, the Beijing Utmost Speed Squash Ladder League (USSLL).

USSLL was created in Beijing in 2003. Initially, the majority of the players were foreigners from international enterprises

and embassies. Today, the club not only has more than 100 players, but over half of them are Chinese. There are beginners, mid level players, and advanced ones.

The President of the USSLL, Ren Zengli, who by day works in the advertising industry, is the nation's best player. He recently won all his personal games in the 'Beijing Shanghai Hong Kong Macao Squash Tournament'. Before playing squash, Zengli was a badminton player. "I never got tired from playing three or four rounds of badminton, but when I started playing squash, even for just 10 minutes, I became very sweaty. And I eat much more since I started playing squash," says Zengli. He feels that squash is a 'gentleman's sport'. According to the rules, the ball is not supposed to bounce more than once on the floor, but because of the speed of the game, sometimes even the referee and the other player won't notice that the ball has bounced twice. Squash players will always raise their hand, informing the

referee of the fault.

The CEO of Fiat (China) Company, Franco Amadei, is well known in the squash community by his Chinese name, Lao Meng. As the co-founder of the USSLL and the Chief Supervisor of the Referee Committee of the China Squash Association, Lao Meng has contributed a great deal to the development of the refereeing system in China. Even Meng's wife, Peng Yongyi, is involved in the game. She first stepped onto the squash court in 1997, and soon after she won the national women's tournament.

Besides these 'professional amateur players', there are also many beginners. Twenty-eight-year-old Celine Su started playing squash in November last year. "I had just given birth to my baby and two months later I was still 'puffy'. After playing squash for a couple of months, I lost about 5kg, and my body became firmer and stronger." Celine doesn't think squash is too difficult to begin with, and she made great progress with the help of trainers and other members.

USSLL is truly an international community. Wolfgang Schau and Christian Schau are father-and-son players. Wolfgang has been working in Beijing for 16 months. He started playing squash the year before the birth of his 25-year-old son Christian, who has visited his father in China twice. On both occasions, Wolfgang brought him to the league to play. Christian has made good friends in the league, like Gabriel from Nigeria. "Squash players are very nice. I've never met unfriendly players," says Christian.

USSLL-KEMPINSKI Squash Days:
(1) Tuesday: 17:00-21:00
(2) Thursday: 17:00-21:00
(3) Saturday: 13:00-18:00

USSLL Squash Club members pay a special fee of 50 yuan to play for each 'Squash Day' session. USSLL Squash Club Members also enjoy favored fees when booking court time outside of Squash Days: 60 yuan /one hour/one person.

Boost for EU-China cooperation

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The EU-China Conference on Government Procurement (GP) was held in Beijing this Tuesday at Diaoyutai. A series of technical cooperation activities on GP was launched to provide both sides with a better understanding of procurement policies and international agreements such as the GP Agreements under the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Charlie McCreedy, European

Commissioner responsible for the Internal Market, opened the conference, emphasizing the importance of GP policies to ensure an open, competitive economy, and for governments to obtain the best "value of money".

"Governments are a nation's most important buyer," McCreedy said. "In the EU alone, purchases of public authorities account for as much as the whole French economy, or as much as

the worldwide sales of the automotive industry," he said, adding that in Europe, prices paid by authorities were reduced by up to 30 percent when proper GP rules are applied.

The EU-China Regulatory Dialogue on GP, a forum for officials to exchange information and views was opened at the same time at the conference. A comparative study on GP practices in China and the EU will also be carried out by

the EU-China Trade Project, an EU-funded trade-related technical assistance project in China.

The EU also expressed satisfaction with China's recent decision to start negotiations on accession to the WTO's GP Agreement by December 2007, an international agreement that binds signatories to transparent and non-discriminatory rules when awarding government contracts.

Buddha's anniversary celebrated in Beijing

By Chen Shasha

The Vesak Full Moon Poya Day, the 2550th anniversary of Buddha Jayanthi, was celebrated in Beijing. It is the first time that the Sri Lankan embassy, with the participation of the Chinese government, the diplomatic community and Sri Lankan citizens, has celebrated the festival on this scale in China.

In 2002, the United Nations declared Vesak Day as a day for international commemoration. Since then, cultural activities have been held annually on that day in Sri Lanka every year. Last Saturday, embassy staff from India, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand and South Korea went to the Sri Lankan embassy to share the memory of the birth, enlightenment and passing away of Buddha.



Embassy staff pray as they celebrate at the Sri Lankan embassy

Photo by Chen Shasha

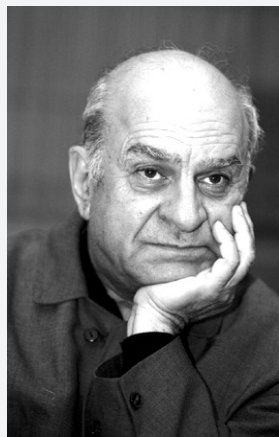
Greek mythology and Olympic art

By Wang Xiaoyuan

A one-week exhibition of 'Art on Paper' by the famed Greek artist Alecos Fassianos takes place at the Jiantai Gallery in Chaoyang Park this week. A series of designs for the Athens Olympics by the artist have attracted a lot of attention.

Fassianos is well known in Greece for his combination of Greek myths and modern themes. His works focus on heroes, freedom, passion, grandeur and the power of nature. For the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, Fassianos designed a series of stamps and competition facilities.

"Greek myths and modern Olympics have the same topic. You can see that one of the stamps is of a man cycling. The image is the same as a god sending a message to humans in myths. China also has a great history and culture. I've learnt much from the simplicity of Chinese water and ink painting. The Olympics will



Alecos Fassianos

Photo by Li Yanming

be a great chance for China to share its greatness with the world," said the artist.

The Greek ambassador and his wife, Li Bei, an official from the cultural department of the 2008 Olympic Committee and the culture consultant attended the opening to meet the artist and view his work.

US and Chinese companies push for changes

By Wang Xiaoyuan

A White Paper launched this Tuesday by the American Chamber of Commerce in China (AmCham-China) presented results of an investigation of over 4,000 American enterprises in China and gave advice on improving the business environment in China and the competitiveness of US companies.

'American Business in China: Enhancing Dialogue, Moving Forward' highlights the importance of Sino-US commercial relations and calls on both governments to take specific measures to improve the business climate. In the paper,

80 percent of AmCham members expressed their interest in further investment in China, especially in the northeast and central regions.

AmCham will send the white paper to all its members, representing 900 US enterprises, and to American and Chinese officials. Charlie Martin, the AmCham-China President, said that the white paper's key recommendations included improving Intellectual Property Rights enforcement, market access, transparency in policymaking on the Chinese side and export control and trade promotion policies on the US side.

Nordic celebrations

By Annie Wei

The Norwegian Embassy held an evening for around 200 people in the SAS hotel on Wednesday night to celebrate the adoption of the country's constitution.

Mr. Jor Chr. Hildon, the Nor-

wegian ambassador, hosted the event.

Norway adopted its constitution in 1814, an event that is celebrated every year on May 17. The Norwegian Parliament, the Storting, held the first May 17 celebrations in 1836.

MTV in the city

By Lucky Zhang

British music videos were on show at an MTV event organized by the British Council last weekend as a part of the Dashanzi International Art Festival.

All the music videos were produced by *Antenna*, a bi-monthly magazine of creative and lesser-known music videos in London.

"We invited *Antenna* to come to China, to show their music videos and to share their musical ideas with Chinese producers and fans," said Zhao Li, the British Council's artistic director.

Antenna focuses on otherwise unseen videos at London's National Film Theatre. Since its launch two-and-a-half years ago, it has shown videos from all over the world, welcomed directors, video commissioners, television producers and musicians as panelists and sold out the Theatre's 456 seat theater time and again.

Ambassador to teach Venezuelan culture

By Han Manman

Venezuelan ambassador, Mrs. Rocio Maneiro Gonzalez, will give a lecture in Spanish at 2 pm next Wednesday (May 24) at the Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU). It is open to all who are interested in learning about Venezuelan culture.

Address: room 213, Yifu Building, East Campus of Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Football comp kick off

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The first round of the Hiboo 2006 International Cup kicked off last Saturday at Dongguantou Football Ground. Eight teams played as supporters and fans cheered them on.

The US, France, and China beat their opponents easily, while South Korea and Ivory Coast had a tough match and ended with a draw.

New drive to get Chinese culture into the classroom

By Tom Mackenzie

As China's clout on the world stage grows and the economy continues to boom, head teachers and staff are putting a greater emphasis than ever before on getting Chinese culture and language into the classroom.

Where once the city's international schools were seen as giving expat kids an educational 'home from home', with a fully western focus, many are now starting to turn the tables with far more resources and time devoted to teaching the children about the country in which they live.

"China's influence and importance is growing all the time and parents increasingly want their children to have a knowledge of the country, its customs and, most importantly, its language," said Christine Xu, Chinese curriculum coordinator at Yew Chung International School of Beijing.

"Just a few years ago many of the international schools didn't even teach their children Chinese. They just weren't interested, but now that's all changed."

Yew Chung, a bilingual school of around 600 pupils, which sits on the edge of Honglingjin Park, in Chaoyang District, sees itself as a pioneer in this area.

It operates a separate Chinese curriculum with compulsory language lessons and an hour a week of Chinese culture studies for its primary pupils. The children learn about everything from the country's history and geography to its traditional games and medicines. And in August the school launches its 'Experience China Program' to get more kids traveling around the country.

"We think it's important that the children look at things from a Chinese as well as a Western perspective," said Christine. "From next year, secondary students will go on field trips around China so they can relate what they're learning in their history and geography lessons to the country they're living in. But they will also learn about modern day China because we want them to



Championing Chinese culture – Yew Chung pupils are taught about China from an early age

Photos provided by Yew Chung International School

have an understanding of the country as it is today."

Other schools seem to be following in Yew Chung's footsteps. The International School of Beijing (ISB), in Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang District, has increased the number of Chinese language classes for pupils and even sends some students out to village schools around the capital to volunteer and help teach English.

"There is more of a focus on linking students to Chinese culture," said ISB's marketing coordinator Melinda Tyack. "We've also tried to give the campus a really Chinese feel. This is something that parents and pupils increasingly seem to want."

Mum Annette Arbenz, who sends her two children to the Western Academy of Beijing (WAB), believes that the longer families stay out in China the more they want their children to integrate with the society around them.



Pupils take to the stage to show off their dance skills

"Chinese culture has always been a very important part of the curriculum at WAB but there's a greater emphasis on it now," said Annette, who is president of WAB's Parent, Teacher Association.

"The school is encouraging

more integration and direct contact with Chinese children. Whereas a few years ago parents may only be in the country two or three years they are now staying much longer and if you stay longer you want to be integrated."

School AIDS fundraiser

By Tom Mackenzie

Kind-hearted school kids are hoping to raise thousands of yuan for AIDS sufferers today (Friday).

Year Eight students from The British School of Beijing, in Sanlitun Xiliujie, Chaoyang District, have organised a non-uniform day to raise money for the Red Cross and Red Crescent to help fund their AIDS work in China.

Julian Nemes, an English teacher at the school, said, "Year eight chose this charity because they are concerned about the growing problems that China faces from AIDS."

Pupils in all year groups will be asked to support the cause by paying 10 rmb to their class teacher for the privilege of coming to school in casual clothes.

Party time at Dulwich College

By Annie Wei

Hard-working students will get to let their hair down and party tonight (Friday) at the Dulwich College Disco.

The keystone three disco will be held tonight from 6.30pm to 10.30pm.

On Saturday the school will hold its Spring Picnic and Art Show 2006 starting at 12pm and finishing at 3pm. Parents, children and friends can bring their own picnic or enjoy the offerings of food and drinks from an Italian restaurant and catering company. There will be music and dancing by African band Mitabe. The event will have activities for children of all ages including everything from face painting to a bouncy castle.

Student hacks to report on the Olympics

By Tom Mackenzie

Twenty talented students will be putting their reporting skills to the test after being specially selected to report on the Beijing Olympic Games.

The up-and-coming hacks, from Yew Chung International School of Beijing, in Houbali Zhuang, Chaoyang District, will be given exclusive, behind-the-

scenes access as they cover the build up to the 2008 games for local media.

They were signed up as reporters by the Students' Press Association (SPA) – the only student organization authorized by the Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee to report on the games.

"The examiners were deeply

impressed by the students' excellent performance and appropriate manner," said Yew Chung co-principal Dr Lily Shu. "Despite their varying Chinese levels, the students spoke with enthusiasm about the coming Olympic Games and their pride in Beijing."

She added, "This experience will greatly benefit our students

as they are given the opportunity to combine their study of academic subjects with real life experiences."

Editors from SPA conducted interviews with over 60 students from the school where they tested their knowledge of the Olympic Games before selecting the final group of 20.

Pot luck on Potjie day

By Annie Wei

South Africans held a Potjie day in Shunyi District last Saturday afternoon. Potjie is a traditional form of outdoor cooking in South Africa. Ten teams of four people cooked traditional South African food, with around 150 non-competitors enjoying the event.

Chivas party features celebrities

By Annie Wei

Chivas held a big party night in Beijing Exhibition Center last Wednesday to promote its popular mixed Chivas drinks. Thousand of people joined in the event, including top models, celebrities, different media companies, as well as PR firms and fashion brands. Similar events will be introduced in 20 cities in China, including Shanghai, Guangzhou and Xi'an.



Henry Lee, famous socielite



Rebecca Zhang (left), party promoter and her friends



Chivas Party night in Beijing Exhibition Center



Richard, a consultant
Photos by Blinking



Adrian Moors and his Chinese friend Sandy



A judge, Boet Lamprecht, tries Adrian Moors' dish



Miranda Allen (right) and her husband Mike's dish: Spinach Lamb potjie



A woman sampling food from all the potjies after the contest



Ann Hurd trying Spenser's dish
Photos by Li Ying



Spenser offers his dish to a girl

Lao wai blogger promotes Chinese perspective

By Annie Wei

Jeremy Goldkorn is known for his blog Danwei.org, which quickly translates into English topics from the Chinese media that interests foreigners, and shows a different aspect of things that happen in China.

Standing on the balcony of his apartment in Qijiayuan Diplomatic Compound, Jeremy Goldkorn drinks a cup of morning coffee and enjoys the view of Chang'anjie. It's a very modern and civilized view of Beijing.

English listings magazine

Goldkorn is from South Africa and came to China in 1995. "My major in university was literature and I like writing," Goldkorn said.

Early in 1997, Goldkorn was the executive editor of the first-ever free English listings magazine *Beijing Scene*. "I worked a lot at that time but I loved it. I love meeting new people every week, writing things and publishing them on Wednesday, em or Thursday?"

Even so, Goldkorn felt more passionate about writing things that people would read than doing other things. *Beijing Scene* was closed down for a variety of reasons. Goldkorn said, "You know, printed publications cost a lot of money, and it had many problems both in terms of finance and management."

After that, Goldkorn helped establish other English magazines like *Er*, a bilingual listing magazine, as well as making documentaries. He was also caught up in the dotcom investment buzz.

In 2001, he and his friends rented a courtyard near Houhai, which was not as popular as it is today. When Mart Kitto, the founder of *That's Shanghai*, launched its Beijing edition, Goldkorn promised to help for the first two months. Goldkorn said he was sick of doing listings magazines after that and left for New York. However, New York was suffering after 9/11 and it was hard for Americans or foreigners to find a job.

Advertising company

Finally, Goldkorn and his friend, and now business partner, Italian man Mauro Marescialli and another two friends (another Italian and a Swede) decided to open their design and advertising company. "I felt like I could not work for other people any more."

Starting any business is hard. None of them had experience of running an advertising company, and their company, Standards Group began with no clients.

"We had no money. The courtyard we rented had no heating in the winter, the diesel heater ate almost 1,000 yuan worth of gas per month, things in the old house kept breaking and we had no clients," Goldkorn said.

Standard Group has been in business for almost four years and has a stable of clients. "Most of our clients are foreign-invested enterprises."

"Foreign companies in Beijing need different kinds of services. Although Chinese started providing service to companies, firms or enterprises, foreigners still have the lead when it comes to quality. In China no matter what you do the Chinese firms can always offer a cheaper rate."

Goldkorn said, "If you call a Chinese for business on Sunday, they will say fine, but foreigners are not comfortable with that. So you cannot compete with Chinese in price, work levels, or availability of labor. We don't have many clients but many are long-term with whom I like to work."

Danwei.org

Now Jeremy Goldkorn has a reputation in Beijing's expatriate communities, as well as the attention his blog attracts from many western news agencies based in Beijing on Danwei.org.

Today, the Chinese media covers many interesting stories and a variety of topics. There are different kinds of websites covering governmental or non-governmental information, and a range of publications from business magazines to glossy women's magazines.



Jeremy Goldkorn at Danwei.org

Photo provided by Jeremy Goldkorn

"I found that none of the English publications or media companies had written about them," Goldkorn said, "Many foreign media companies write things for readers who know nothing about China. What they write is very superficial and I found they had nothing to do with the China I live in. Although their journalists stay and write in China, their editors don't."

"I found blogs during SARS," Goldkorn said. To many people, SARS was a time that they had a lot of leisure time. "I was not busy and got plenty of time to stay at home, and stayed online every day."

Despite the fact he never had a Chinese teacher or went to classes, Goldkorn can translate unusual Chinese terms with great accuracy.

"My talent is not language, but I can smell whether its something interesting by reading the Chinese headlines," Goldkorn said. "It's not just a pure question of language itself, it's to understand the country and its society."

He reads every morning. "Websites I like to read include Xinhuanet's Chinese and English portals, and some Chinese blogs, including Hong Huang (the pub-

lisher of *Time-out* in Beijing) and Wang Xiaofeng (a senior journalist for *Sanlian Life Weekly*, a popular magazine that caters to the Chinese middle-class)." He likes the black humor of bloggers who "do not take their articles too seriously." Many journalists' articles seem too pompous to Goldkorn. He expressed "pompous" in Beijing slang: *zhuang bi*.

Danwei.org translated some articles from Wang's blog and pretty soon Wang got many interview requests from foreign journalists.

In April, Danwei.org translated an article into English about the time Wang shut down his blog for repairs. The article revealed that Reuters reported that the blog had been shut down without confirming the story with Wang. It turned out that it was all a practical joke.

At a dinner, Wang said that Jeremy's Danwei.org has become an important source of information for many foreign journalists in China.

Goldkorn laughed, "Well, it's because many foreign journalists in China can't read Chinese, or at least they do not spend as much time as I do reading Chinese websites."

Danwei.TV

Goldkorn and his American friend, Luke Mines, a cameraman, started shooting small films and videos in Beijing. Their documentaries include the popular *African Boots in Beijing*, which introduced the lives of African football players.

Danwei.TV shows short programs from an expatriate's point of view in China.

Of the seven or eight video clips on Danwei.TV, Goldkorn said their interview with Muzimei, China's sex blogger, was the most popular.

Goldkorn and Mines interviewed 18 different newspaper sellers in Beijing in another documentary that dealt with newsstands and what Chinese people like to read.

The latest videos Danwei.TV put on this week includes one about Zhang Ailing, one of the leading Chinese novelists in the 20th century.

"Only very few foreigners that are interested in Chinese literature might want to read about this topic," Goldkorn said.

"We did something that TV stations might not be interested in. But if only 10 people like it I would be happy with that."

In bed with Beijing

The world on a string

By David Drakeford

Man Ruixing, now in his seventies, has been making traditional Chinese instruments for over 50 years. Unsurpassed in status, it is Man we should thank for Beijing's reputation in *pipa* and *erhu* production – instruments that loosely resemble a small Chinese guitar and two-string violin. The best of the best used to be made in Shanghai before recent times, which have seen Man's *pipas* storm the scene. Rival craftsmen once snuck a *pipa* back to Shanghai to dissect it but were still unable to find the source of a rich sound described as 'gold hitting stone'.

Fame and prestige may be satisfying but they don't pay the bills. Manshu (uncle Man) has a shop in Xijiekou run by relatives to bring money to his extended family of Hebei ren. When I visited, one was content to sleep at the table, but his friend vigorously pulled a magazine out from under his slumped form to show off uncle's achievements. Awards and commendations for *pipas* and *erhu* abound but an eclectic array of other creations also decorate the shop, Mongolian horse-head violins and even *magu hu* – horse-bone *erhu* which Man himself brought back from near extinction.

Manshu doesn't often come to the shop, preferring a more



Manshu with his pipa

Photo by David Drakeford

bucolic existence at his workshop in Tongzhou. A deliberate refuge from the bustle of downtown Beijing, the journey was 30 bus stops ride through a swathe of undulating roads and man-made forests.

Manshu was lively and talkative, chatting in a strong but clear Hebei accent. He recounts stories including Nixon, the Queen of Japan and the Chairman of Korea with amusement but no glint of self-satisfaction in his bright roving eyes. His improvements on the *erhu* could have been patented long ago he says, but he aspires to developing the art and not arguing over protection issues. Part of the reason the Man-ruixing brand is so strong is that he still does a lot of the hand work by himself follow-

ing Mao Zedong's adage "True knowing comes from doing". There is some secrecy as to the final touches performed by Manshu or his son but he's an "open door" policy kind of guy whose instruments now scatter the globe. There is some surprise when I start picking up and smelling the various imported and local woods that are used in production but Manshu seems pleased and directs me to the most sweet-smelling.

These days Xijiekou shops are jam-packed with electric guitars and keyboards but Manshu is positive about the future of traditional Chinese instruments. He describes it as an industry which could barely feed a man before the founding of

modern China. Now that the economy is stronger people need entertainment to accompany their full stomachs. A good point indeed – cultural richness follows prosperity and creative output will surely tail China's economic rise. For Beijingers, opportunity is right on their doorstep in the form of people like Manruixing who are dedicated to the endless search for perfection.

As the sun starts to set in Tongzhou Manshu wishes us goodbye. A simple meal of *mantou* and salted vegetables has arrived which he will eat with his workers and apprentices. He apologises that they do not have something better to offer us but I don't mind, he has given me more than enough already.

Beijing Daze

The reluctant pundit

By Edmund Backhouse

Last night I gave my second interview of the week to an international radio station. It seems I have become an expert on China, something which comes as a surprise to me, and doubtless more so to my Chinese friends. Of course, on reflection, this apparently vaunted status can in fact be achieved by mere dint of hanging around long enough (and bumping into journalists desperate for someone to help them fill air time).

Disabused

In many ways, I am less clear on what I think about China after close on a decade of living here than I was when I first arrived. You learn that things are more complex than you assumed, and are disabused of many preconceptions. Still, despite the increased openness of the past two decades and the burgeoning of a variety of new media, China remains very much an unknown quantity to the world at large (not of course to the well-informed reader of *Beijing Today*). This leaves ample opportunity for me to run through my script with a semblance of credibility and little fear of contradiction.

Gig

My first gig found me opining on a model sustainable urbanisation project in Liaoning. The fact I've never even been to the province in question, let alone heard of this project, was no barrier to me trotting out a number of my standard aperçus, largely on the primacy of popular agency as opposed to technical fixes, be they ever so scientific and advanced. I console myself with the fact that if I were not there to state the obvious, it would be in danger of being forgotten in a flurry of development jargon.

The more recent outing on the airwaves was part of an historical retrospective. Again I had no direct experience on which to base my remarks. I won't recount the anecdotes and insights gleaned from Chinese friends with which I regaled the good listeners of the radio station in question; let me instead offer the reflection this interview provoked on the vagaries of chance that shape one's life.

End of history

I was born in a developed welfare state at a time of unprecedented peace and prosperity in Europe, despite the cloud cast by the Cold War, and enjoyed the kind of idyllic childhood that rural England does so well. By the time I was an adult, Fukuyama could even claim to have seen the end of history (I understand he has recently recanted). How different the early years and youth of my Chinese contemporaries. I suspect none of them, living through these decades of great change, have ever felt they were witness to the settled verdict of the processes and forces that shape our lives.

Blog

Beijing bloggers party: a French bet

By Olivier Sasportas

It started in Shanghai three months ago, simply as a bet. A 'Blogger bet' – and Beijing didn't want to lose. Who could gather the most city based bloggers?

– "We are going to defeat you!" Yelled the Shanghai-nese.

– "Are you kidding me?" Rumbled the Beijingers.

Indeed Shanghai won the first round, but the rematch (April 27) gave the Beijing bloggers revenge. A reasonable one – no humiliation between friends – but leaving a serious motive to eagerly await the next challenge.

Anyhow, the Beijing bloggers party was a success. Fifty people came to Bed bar, responding to the public invitation from the web. During the evening, unaware customers could hear the web based companions chanting their new trinity with the same enthusiasm: "in the name of Beijing I'll write a blog."

But what is a Beijing blogger? 'Blogging' is the act of writing in your own web-based publication, about anything you want. Of course you know this, as you are living in a place not too far from Earth in a time

where human beings are still acting according to their engendered characteristics – improvement would be welcomed. But a Beijing blogger? Simply a blogger who lives and blogs in Beijing, capital of China, of course.

Or so I thought before this party. I was wrong. My brand-new definition would include another little detail: a Beijing blogger is...French. Yes, I was surprised too.

Among the 111 million Internet users China counts, and the 36.82 million blogs kept by 16 million bloggers – according to Xinhua – the French stood up asking for more than a virtual community.

Avant-garde? Coincidence? Here are the facts: To the party at Bed bar, every Beijing blogger and reader active on the web was invited. The French came.

But since last Thursday, a few Chinese agreed to join the next gathering while Americans are considering not using their veto. So let's agree on this: sometimes a good initiative brings good news.

Another thing was confirmed during this party: no matter the number, you put 10 or a million people in the same place, you wait for a



second and a star shines. No exceptions for this rule.

Like the others, I voted: Camille Levert from www.camilleenchine.over-blog.com was one of the attractions of the night. She was interviewed by Danwei TV during the week. With the help of Chris from 'blog de riz' and Mathieu alias Puma boy (who was wearing Adidas) she recently inaugurated 'Let's Beijing', a series of clips showing the day to day atmosphere of Beijing's streets. This Internet professional obviously finds the blog the best medium to transmit her interest in the Chinese capital. And it works.

Others like Olivier Fontenoy prefer to feed the Web with sounds. This former long distance walker interviewed

almost every one at the party (www.fontaine38.fr). Involved in many projects, he brings with him a history as a social activist and uses the blog as a bridge between cultures, offering testimonies with original perspectives.

With their varied backgrounds, the 'BBs' expressed different visions of China but agreed on this: their blog initially was a practical way to communicate with the family abroad. Beijing made the best of it and subsequently changed their life. It was almost an accident, the kind that changes your life. For them being a blogger and a Beijinger is now inseparable. For certain it even became an attitude (www.mybeijingattitude.over-blog.com). That's why they responded to the invitation: like Beijing they won't pause until they achieve The Big Thing. It could be the Olympics 2008; it could be one of those intimate dreams that beats its own rhythm.

So here's the new bet: let's show the French bloggers what the purpose of avant-garde is. Watch for the next invitation and come to bring your own Beijing: there's more to share.

Cutting the cost of phone bills



Photo by IC

By Annie Wei

Have you ever noticed that your Chinese friends seem to pay much less than you for their cell phone bills? Are you sick of having to ignore incoming calls and scrimp and save on text messages? Fear not, below we show how you can cut those bills without cutting your chat time.

China Unicom and China Mobile are the two major cell phone service providers in China and they adjusted their cell phone bills by promoting different product packages.

Shenzhouxing and Quanqitong

Shenzhouxing and Quanq-

itong are two of the most popular China Mobile services. *Quanqitong* costs 0.4 yuan per minute with a fixed monthly fee of 50-yuan. *Shenzhouxing* has no fixed monthly fee but costs 0.6 yuan per minute. *Shenzhouxing's* new 80 yuan per month package provides 200 minutes of calls.

Shenzhouxing has a promotional rate of 0.39 yuan per minute in the daytime and 0.29 yuan at night for local calls. If you use around 205 minutes per month there is little difference between *Shenzhouxing* or *Quanqitong*.

If the use is less than 200

minutes per month *Shenzhouxing* works out cheaper. If you use more than 200 minutes *Quanqitong* is probably a better option.

Night rates

Ruyi133, provided by China Unicom, has no fixed monthly fee and costs 0.2 yuan per minute from 10 pm to 7am. China Mobile's *Mzone* has a special package 'Dahuaeyou' for night users. 'Shueyou' has a 10-yuan per month minimum fee but includes 100 minutes of free calls from 11pm to 9am. Any calls over 100 minutes will be charged at 0.12 yuan per minute.

For night users, *Mzone* is

cheaper than *Ruyi133* if you are using more than 225 minutes per month and vice versa.

Message fever

Mzone charges 0.071 to 0.1 yuan per message. *Xiaolingtong*, which is built into existing fixed-line networks and lures users with low per minute rates, one-way charges and cheap monthly fees, charges a 24 yuan fixed monthly fee with an average price per message of 0.08 yuan.

If you send less than 1000 messages per month, *Mzone* is a better option. *Xiaolingtong* is better for message lovers who send more than 1,000 messages per month.

More calls and less messages

For those who prefer calling instead of texting, both China Unicom and China Mobile have their own packages. (See charts)

China Mobile's Quanqitong

Fixed monthly fee	Number of minutes	8am to 8pm (yuan for per extra minute)	8pm to 8am (yuan for per extra minute)
80 yuan per month	200	0.4	0.24
108yuan per month	360	0.3	0.18
168 yuan per month	700	0.25	0.15
220 yuan per month	1100	0.2	0.12

China Unicom's GSM has no fixed monthly fee.

Fixed monthly fee	Number of minutes	Limited minutes of local calls
80 yuan per month	400 (including 50 free messages)	400 (including 50 free messages)
200 yuan per month	1500	1500

More foreigners getting behind the wheel

by Annie Wei

Everyone knows traffic in Beijing is crazy, gas prices have gone up, parking is not cheap and taxis may soon be charging two yuan per kilometer. But it seems that more and more foreigners have started driving their own cars. According to Beijing Motor Vehicle Administration (BMVA), over 5,800 foreigners took driving tests in Beijing in 2005 and more than 3,800 passed the test.

If you hold a foreign driving license, you can apply for

a local license after taking an additional theory test. There are exceptions. Anyone with a Belgium driving license who works for an embassy or an international organization in China does not need to take the additional test. International Driver's Permits are not accepted in China. And an applicant can only apply for a license to drive the same type of vehicle listed on their foreign license.

How to take the test

If you have a valid driving

license from home, a residence permit, a passport and four 1-inch color photos you can go to the BMVA (Beijing Motor Vehicle Administration) for an application form. You will then need to go through a physical examination in approved hospitals and pass a traffic rule test.

Foreigners in Beijing can either go by themselves or contact Beijing Foreign Enterprise Service Group (FESCO) to have people help them complete the process at a much higher price.

The cost for taking the traffic rule test is 50 yuan.

The BMVA is located at No.18 east section of South Fourth Ring Road, telephone number 8761 5150. The FESCO address is No.14 Chaoyangmen Nan Dajie, telephone number 85616663.

Those without a license from their home country can go to Shouqi Fengtian Driving School or Shenghua Driving School to take the traffic rules and road tests. The total cost for both tests is around 8,000 yuan.

ASK Beijing Today

Fergus, from Ireland, asked how to make a complaint in Beijing

Answer: If you buy something faulty or out-of-date you can call 96315 (Beijing Consumers' Association). Unfortunately, they do not provide English service. Another reason why it's good to have Chinese friends!

A Chinese friend recalled her experience of taking a cab with an American guy who screamed and shouted when the cab driver took the wrong turn. "I felt so embarrassed," the girl said. "My friend shouted at the cab driver in the middle of the street and in broken Chinese that nobody could understand. Shouting at the cab driver turned everyone in the street against him."

A better way to have dealt with the situation would have been not to shout but just to pay the cab driver and call the taxi complaint hotline afterwards. "That way he could get his cab fee back and give the cab driver a bad work record," she said.

L. D, an American asked what to do if you have something stolen.

Answer: Gao Peng, an officer from the Exit and Entry Management Section of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau (PSB) said acts of theft should be reported to the nearest PSB. They will give out a certificate confirming that the person's property has been stolen. They will then have to go to the Exit and Entry Management Section with the certificate, a resident's card and two passport size photos. The exit and entry section will give another certificate that can be used by insurance companies to process the claim. "The certificate covers things like laptops, cameras and other expensive items but not cash," said Gao.

Gabe Miller asked: "How often do Chinese people really eat dogs?"

Answer: The idea of eating dogs makes many Chinese people feel sick. You don't find many people who like eating dogs in Beijing, certainly not as many as there are in the south of China, especially in Guangdong and Hainan Province. So how often do they eat dogs? *Beijing Today* asked a Chinese local food and wine connoisseur who admitted to eating dog meat at least a couple of times a year.

Priscilla Li, a marketing executive from a medicine factory in Hainan province, who has studied and worked in Liaoning Province and Guangdong Province, said eating dog meat was completely normal for her. But she pointed out that Chinese do not eat pet dogs, but dogs bred especially for consumption.

"We eat dog once a month during the winter time," Li said, "People rarely eat dog meat in the summer. According to Chinese traditional medicine theory, dog meat is too warm for the human body in summer."

If you have any questions about living in Beijing, write to dongnan@ynet.com, *Beijing Today* will try to find you the answers to your questions.

(By Annie Wei)



Does *Senses* make s

Controversial nude photography model and dancer Tang Jiali is b

Sex sells, but people expect what they pay for

By Gareth George

It is fitting that entrepreneur Luo Qiren was the one who picked out Tang Jiali and cast her in her first lead role. Tang's notoriety has made her an overnight cash cow, if a shapely one. The two have not been too modest to grab a teat and start milking. In the lobby of the Poly Theatre, flunkies were handing out flyers advertising Tang Jiali's latest venture – a series of beauty salons. Color books with the *Senses* logo were on sale for a cool 100 yuan, featuring Tang dancing nude. A titillating preview that only added to the anticlimax.

The show itself was a curious mix: western musical instruments, songs that often sounded more Italian opera than Beijing. None were memorable. The dancing was mostly confined to one area, with little use made of the levels. Some of the dances themselves were beautiful, but nothing coherent emerged. For a show called *Senses*, it was surprisingly passionless. The first duet dances called to mind the opening credits from a Roger Moore 'Bond film', all wavy limbs and stretches. Tang Jiali did the decent thing and neglected to ride across stage straddling a giant gun barrel. Instead she stopped the show after each solo dance to chat away and accept roses. No doubt in her mind about who the crowd came to see.

Applause was uncomfortably muted at the end. Some punters even shuffled out while the cast were still bowing to the silence. Perhaps with all the notoriety, the nude books on sale in the lobby and the talk of racy western influences, some of them thought they were going to see something sexy.

More charm needed

By Michael Chen

In fact, the dancing wasn't bad. Ms Tang Jiali has a good figure. And the music, with a series of half-tones used, sounds like a shy woman. The show looks good with the colorful costumes. The dancers all dress in Chinese style, but not in a traditional way. It is like a combination of Chinese culture and the sex appeal of western art.

However, more charm is in need for these so-called *Senses*. Part of the rhythm of the music followed the traditional ones, which made Chinese people think of the performances they had seen many times. How can it be charming without innovation? Besides, the couples dance should be more open, and the lack of variety in the lighting didn't exactly provide a feast for the eyes. During the performance, Ms Tang came to tell of her experiences twice, which made no sense. For me, it was an interruption of the charming dance. Promotion is not a bad thing, but it's a pity that the sponsor made it too heavy to bear.

Nightclub show on the whole, but Tang shines

By Wang Xiaoyuan

I could tell that the whole show was a total frippery. Commerce came first, no matter how they advertised themselves. You can see the same thing in any luxury casino or nightclub, with a beer or glass of wine in your hand, but at least that might make you feel better.

However, Tang Jiali did make the performance herself. The *pas de deux* was a surprise and very impressive. I've never expected that Tang could dance with so much skill. Although she appeared a little bit clumsy in the first chapter, she soon calmed down and found the feeling. I liked the traditional Chinese dance, which reminded me of some old photographs of Tang in college. Many gestures were classical. Tang has successfully proved that she is not only a famed nude model, but also a professional dancer.

It was a pity that the choreography of the solo was dull, Tang should have more space to present her skills and passion. I felt it was unfair when the *pas de deux* became a dance accompanying the songs. Dancing should be put to a better position, and I hope Tang can dance in a real show next time.



Photo by Rain Tian

Behind t

By Han Manman

At a small performance in Beijing subway last Wednesday, several people were gathering at the entrance and lighted mirrors, but the last preparations before the rehearsal. Some were looking for their silk costumes; some still rushing to look for their silk costumes.

It was the last dress rehearsal for Tang Jiali and her troupe days before Saturday's *Senses* at Poly Theatre. It was obvious that Tang Jiali was wearing a translucent suit decorated with filigree accouterment, Jiali exposed less than three times the stage lights.

The rehearsal selected paragraphs of the show focused on Tang. During the performance, the American entrepreneur Luo Qiren, supervisor and investor of *Senses* is a show that combines the beauty of east and west of music and dance, it is a format show that tells the story of the spanning from the ancient and Qing dynasty to the world and the future.

"It is a creative and traditional performance. Western American style eastern may not understand it, but you may not know what it is about," Luo said, "Because it is a traditional dance, it is a pantomime, but a so-called festival to exhibit the eastern beauty."

Nude turbulence

Two years ago, Luo Qiren's nude pictures, and he had found the one who was the eastern beauty.

2003 was a turbulent year for the dancer, who had to make a decision to become the most famous in China to sell portraits. The artistic portraits the praise of many critics.



Photos by Li Fangyu

Senses?

back in the spotlight

the scenes with Tang

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her caught in a storm of public criticism.

Because of disputes, she went through a lawsuit with the photographer (Zhang Xulong) of the book. Teetering on the brink of a nervous breakdown, Tang shut herself away, only going out to breathe fresh air at night.

Recalling that period, Tang said, "It is the art, not the sexy pictures. I just try to show the beauty of a dancer."

Love story

At that time, Tang's husband was her only support. He became Tang's pressman while she was hit with a wave of interviews.

They fell in love when Tang was in her second year at the academy. Although students are not allowed to love during the four years of college, Tang and Shen fell in love behind closed doors.

Tang's teacher Wang Yi, who taught her for four years at Beijing Dance Academy, was also invited to the rehearsal. Tang ran to her teacher and hugged her like a child, "I am really nervous when you watch me dance," she said.

Wang told us, "She was a very proactive and serious girl on campus, and although not a Communist, she seemed like one in her attitudes. So all of us were very surprised when she did the nude book."

Showtime

Senses is not going smoothly. A month ago, Jiali's partner Han Feng, ruptured his Achilles's tendon. Jiali said they cooperate very smoothly through a long time. "Everybody knows what an Achilles's tendon rupture means to a dancer," Tang wrote in her blog.

Her latest partner is a young actor, Sun Wenlong; Tang said she needed to practice with him many times a day to create a mutual understanding.

But trouble seems to be dogging Jiali. *Senses* producer, one of her best friends, was recently diagnosed with cancer.

But Tang is no stranger to tough times. "Three years ago, I fell down while dancing and fractured my lumbar. The doctor thought I might be paralyzed forever. At that time, I thought I wouldn't dance again," said she. Luckily, after more than a year's treatment, she recovered. "Senses fulfilled my dream, it is my first time to act in the lead role. I must grasp the chance."

As the investor, Luo said the show went down well in Canada last year. However, *Senses* will tour China at the end of this year.



Photo by Li Fangyu



Photo by Han Manman



Photo by Li Fangyu



Photo by Rain Tian



From a bud to a ripe bloom

Shelley Xie, freelancer

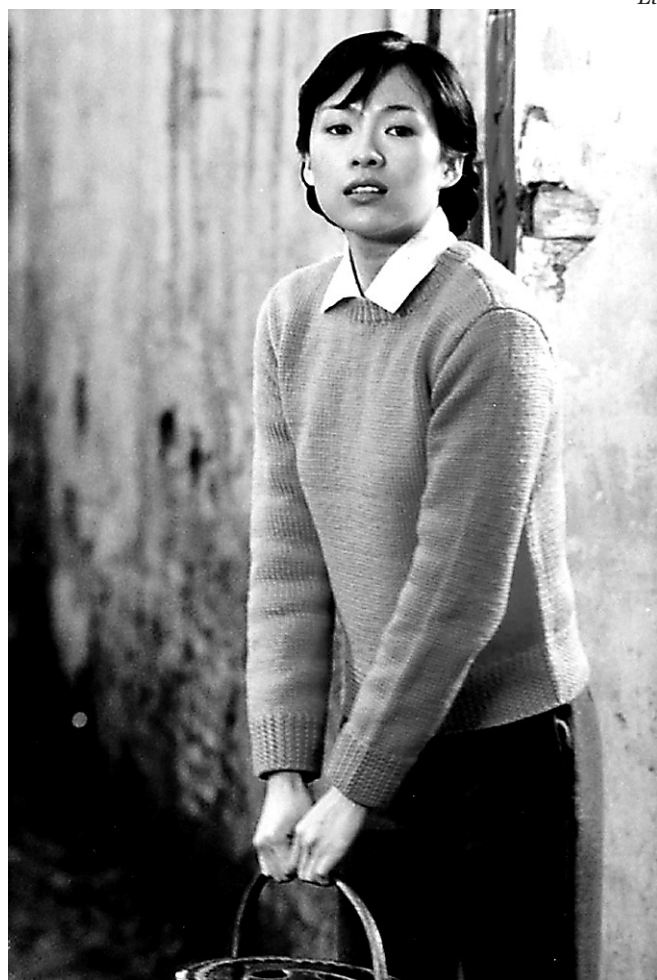
The film is structured like *The Hours*, telling three stories from the grandmother Mo, the mother Li, to the daughter Hua. Mo's story is set in the 1930s, when the young girl gets a chance to realize her dream of being a film actress, and soon becomes the mistress of the film investor Meng. The Japanese invasion destroys her stardom and Meng abandons her. The mother-to-be Mo has no choice but to return home and give birth to Li, a baby doomed to be blamed. By the 1970s, the baby has her own child and her own choices to make.

I think the director's selling point is the female independence through three generations. Because of an infant, the result of a true love or a cheated one, the mother's life changes – Mo treats Li as a U-turn for her stardom, Li regards Hua as a link and a threat to her love, and Hua starts her happy single mother's life with her child. It's touching and brave when Hua gives birth alone on the street in the rain, in which the independent theme is proclaimed in the extreme.

However, for the age of dreaming of a happy marriage and a lovely child, I feel cold toward the irresponsible men and sorry for the women who have to take the pain, either the abortion operations or the birth process, for those unfaithful men.

Personally, I love the details reflecting the social environment, especially in Li's life. When Li can't bear to put a *Matong* (the 'pot toilet' in south China) in their bedroom, Zou complains she's too finicky to get rid of her capitalist life. It's funny to me when Li embraces her husband, and Zou stops her showing the sentimentalism of the petty bourgeoisie.

In my opinion, it's one of the best of Zhang Ziyi's films, in which she plays the young three women – from a bud to a mature bloom.



Li

A FILM BY HOU YONG, THE *JASMINE WOMEN* HAS BEEN DELAYED THREE YEARS TO UNVEIL ITS MYSTERY TO THE PUBLIC IN APRIL. IT'S BASED ON SU TONG'S NOVEL *WOMEN'S LIFE*, THE JASMINE IS ABLOOM WITH STRONG EMOTIONS AND FLAVORS OF SHANGHAI DURING THE 1930S TO 1970S. ZHANG ZIYI LIVES AS THREE WOMEN THROUGH CHINESE MODERN HISTORY.



Hua



Jasmine Women: Zhang Ziyi's three lives

Upsetting as hell

Anxiaowan, a female Shanghai reviewer

It's a boring film with clumsy hints – three generations of women who love the wrong guys, learn nothing from their mother's words and show bold and assured faces even when as they suffer losses.

Actually, I loved the pretty Zhang Ziyi so much after I watched the *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*, but in this movie, she presents someone so stupid and stubborn that she stirs no interest in me.

The most unbearable things are the repeated meanings behind words. For instance, the names of Mo, Li, and Hua, the director contrives to compose them to hint at the name of the flower jasmine in Chinese. No wonder the daughter of Hua is named Kai (so to complete the meaning 'jasmine blossoms').

There are so many flaws, taking the photo studio changes as an example. The open time is from Monday to Friday for the first change. What do they do on Saturdays and Sundays? At that time, there was no two-day weekend. Also the name of the studio changes with the social changes to embody different times; again, stupid!

Every time, when I see the leading actress, she presents firm eyes and an inflexible will. It's torture to watch Hua give birth on the street by herself. Isn't there anything interesting to shoot?

The loss of a father's love makes *Jasmine Women* special

Rainycoffee, a post 1980s viewer in Shanghai

I think the movie is a little bit depressing, but true to life.

Three women experience the same feelings and conflicts when they know what love is. They passionately insist on their choices, even though they get the worst of it. They feel no regret at their decision, because nobody can predict the future.

I think girls must be independent and strong. When they take love as everything, they may get easily lost. When I see Hua gives birth alone on the street, I have a feeling of respect for motherhood. There is little love from the role of the father for the three girls, so they lack normal reactions to men and this leads to an extreme situation – total love or hate.

That too much is focused on women results in a low male factor: the men are selfish, weak and irresponsible. I think it's not necessary to sacrifice the character building of males, because if the men present the many faces of a real human being, the film will be more persuasive.

Story is ok, but the settings...

Zzmale, a foreign reviewer, writes on imdb.com

The story is ok, though not perfect, but the setting is not ok.

The literal translation of the title of this movie is *Jasmine Blossoms*. The story is fine, but the setting is rather unsatisfactory, due to the recent rapid development in China – most of the old buildings were demolished to make room for the development and as a result, the buildings that were necessary for the particular time segments in this movie are extremely difficult to find. The film makers appear to lack the financial resources to build a set to duplicate the buildings of the past, and it is very obvious to those who have visited Shanghai that although the story is set in 1930s, 1960s, and 1980s, the buildings are those newly built/remodeled in the late 1990s.



Mo

A bold and successful change from the script

Su Tong, the author of the novel *Women's Life*

"I feel content about the changes of Hou Yong's *Jasmine Women*. In my book, the third story finishes with a happy ending of the family reunion, while Hou changes it to a single-mother's happy life. This makes the film more dramatic. Also the director involves different era marks naturally into it. It's a bold attempt, but Hou makes it."

Fukuyama: from the end to the crossroads



By Gareth George and
Wang Xiaoyuan

So what does Fukuyama think of the Bush administration?

"Fukuyama finds fault with many aspects of Bush's foreign policies, notably the inadequate planning for post-conflict reconstruction in Iraq, the conflation of the threat of radical Islamism with Iraq and the administration's non-cooperation with international organizations like the United Nations during a deluge of anti-Americanism."

— Publishers Weekly

Blimey. Doesn't sound like toilet reading...

"Amusingly, in the US it has a sober black cover."

Readable. Success and fame have brought [Fukuyama] better prose - pointed, concise and with a refined sense of humour lacking before. Fukuyama claims, perhaps with some justification, that his ideas became part of the intellectual apparatus of the neoconservative administration of George Bush. He now wishes to formally repudiate the association, and mounts a ferocious critique of his government's current foreign policy and ideology."

— Quo Vadis, dvance.net

Amusingly?...sounds like a riot. Does he repudiate successfully?

"Fukuyama has managed to take three obvious conclusions that most Americans have

already reached - absent PhDs or expensive tuition - and create 240 boring, useless pages. These conclusions are: 1) The Bush administration wrong made preventive war the central tenet of its foreign policy. 2) It also badly misjudged global reaction. 3) The Bush administration's third error was failing to appreciate the difficulties involved in establishing a successful democratic government in Iraq.

A total waste of time, money, and paper."

— Pragmatist, Phoenix, AZ

Any light on the horizon?

"In his new incarnation [Fukuyama] has grown passive and grim; the redemptive possibilities of human freedom have faded from his philosophy. Fixated on the blunders and overzealousness of his ex-friends, he is unable to see the progressive role they have played in the world's most dangerously retrograde region - their contribution, perhaps, to what Hegel called 'the cunning of history.'"

— Gary Rosen, The Washington Post.

So he's missing the point?

"As TS Eliot said, 'full of high sentence but a bit obtuse...' Not worth reviewing in greater depth."

— Robert M. Dawson, San

Francisco, CA US
But as a man on the inside, he must say something worth reading.

"Mr Fukuyama himself began having second doubts about the wisdom of the then-pending war. But if that is true, why did Mr Fukuyama continue writing articles and essays lauding the war well into 2003? In public not a word about his misgivings was published until 2004 - the internet is littered, meanwhile, with articles arguing the opposite - and he apparently didn't become fully convinced of his opposition until the end of that year, more or less when he says he started to work on this book."

— Eric J. Lyman, Rome, Italy

Sounds like he may have had an ulterior motive for writing a potential best-seller...

"Mr. Fukuyama finally accepted that the neo-conservative foreign policy has been an unmitigated disaster and needs to be tossed into history's dustbin. America at the Crossroads has undoubtedly caused the author to be removed from quite a few Christmas card lists because it's a gloves off critique of the neo-con philosophy and the Bush administration."

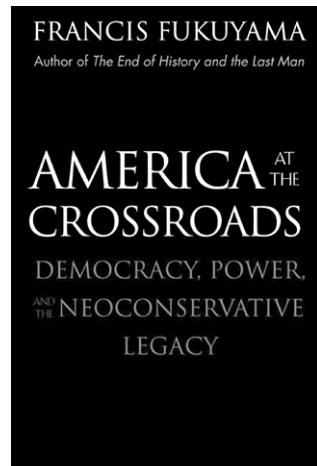
— E. David Swan, South Euclid, Ohio, US

Well, the motive probably wasn't to win friends...but did he win any?

"I did enjoy his discussion of Neocon history, but his breaking with his Neocon makes only if one grants him his premises, namely that Olivier Roy and Gilles Kepel are correct in their assessment of Islamist danger. They share the view that the Jihadists are few in number and the vast majority of Muslims don't support them. It would be nice if that were true but I don't believe that it is. The vast majority Kepel, Roy, and Fukuyama believe is benign shows every evidence of being a core support group for the Jihadists. Militant Islam is repressing dissent and is in essential agreement with the activists, the Jihadists, that Fukuyama thinks few in number."

This is critical to Fukuyama's thesis. If the Jihadists are few in number and not getting support from a large sympathetic core then perhaps Fukuyama is right. But if there is a large sympathetic core that hides, supports, and provides replacements for the fallen Jihadists, then Fukuyama is wrong."

— Lawrence K. Helm, San Jacinto, CA, US



America at the
Crossroads:
Democracy,
Power, and the
Neoconservative
Legacy

By Francis Fukuyama

Key issues:

Politics, philosophy and society

Francis Fukuyama, a supporter of George W. Bush and the author of *The End of History* and *The Last Man*, now stands at the crossroads ready to dump Neoconservatism as practiced by the Bush administration. He gives a brutal critique of American diplomatic policies in Iraq, and the war there, nailing his former buddies (and colleagues) in what is a complete about turn in his attitude to Bush's Republican party and their stance on the Middle East.

Francis Fukuyama

Illustrated by Nicola Jennings



"I needed some childfree friends who could chat on the phone for half an hour without 30 interruptions, could talk about things other than kids, had the money, time and energy to do the things we enjoy doing, and whose lives didn't revolve around children."

Jerry Steinberg, the founder of a social club for childfree people.

CHILD-FREE COMMUNITY IS A HIT

By Qiu Jiaoning

Firhall Village, a new community on the outskirts of Nairn in Scotland, was built especially for people without kids. It is adopting a concept which has already proved to be popular in North America, Australia and continental Europe.

Firhall's residents are allowed visits from young children and grandchildren, but they are not allowed to stay for more than three weeks. While children and young people are not completely banned, anyone staying there on a permanent basis must be over 45. Some residents have children and grandchildren of their own, but feel that they have done their bit and now want to be free of the problems that living among them can bring.

Jimmy and Maureen Greig, who are both in their early 60s, they moved to Firhall from Glasgow to make new friends, and have a bit of peace. "There comes a time," says Maureen, "when you want to live without children."

"It's like Britain 30 years ago, where you live among considerate and polite neighbors. If a stranger comes into the village, everyone will take notice," says Eden Guisley, the chair of the Firhall Residents Association.

"Such a community definitely appeals to my husband and me," said Kim Kenny, a childfree supporter, "As far as child free housing goes, I think it should be an option for those who want some peace and quiet in their domestic lives."

"We should all be able to choose where we want to live, whatever the criteria – a good school district, cheaper property taxes, a safe neighborhood, or a child-free community," Kim said.

When asked what challenges the childfree community faces, Joe Pazo, a childfree community member said, "Perhaps a better question would be 'what challenges don't we face?' I mean, there's the general social ostracizing that comes with making the 'selfish' choice of remaining child-free."

In fact, childfree communities, including childfree housing, dining, shopping, travel, hotels and clubs, are becoming more and more popular.

Roland Ballner from the Hotel Cor-tisen, at St. Wolfgang on one of Austria's best-known lakes, said that from May

this year his hotel would be a child-free zone" with children under 12 banned from entering. "My guests have a right to quiet and relaxation without the noise of children," said the 38-year-old hotelier. He added that in many cases it was not the children who caused problems but parents who turned a blind eye to bad behavior. An unnamed homeowner in Firhall agreed with Roland saying, "Children are sometimes noisy, messy and destructive, but try and complain to the parents, and nine times out of 10 you will make yourself an enemy". She says she has to put up with badly behaved children in restaurants and parks and wants her neighborhood to be free from that.

The international social club for child-free and childless couples and singles (<http://www.nokidding.net/>) is one of the most famous childfree organizations. Since its inception in Vancouver, BC, Canada, childfree people from 23 countries have contacted the club. It organizes three to eight social activities a month such as hikes, wine & cheese parties, water skiing, art galleries, meteor watching, movies, go-karting and football games.

Another child-free organization (<http://www.childfree.net/>) said on its website "we choose to call ourselves 'childfree' rather than 'childless,' because we feel the term 'childless' implies that we're missing something we want - and we aren't. We consider ourselves child-free - free of the loss of personal freedom, money, time and energy that children require."

For childfree travel, it is important to find travel destinations that are adult only. The easiest, but sometimes most expensive option, is a resort that caters to those who want to travel child free – which includes parents who need a break from the kids. According to the Travel Industry Association of America, more people travel without kids than with kids. TIA reported that 32 percent of the 634.5 million people who traveled in the United States were adults only trips, compared to 26 percent who had kids in tow. TIA also reports that more married people take trips than singles or even families. A total of 62 percent of all vacationers last year were married couples, representing the largest group of travelers overall.



If you're looking for a vacation that doesn't include wailing children at every tourist attraction, Kim found 10 adults-only resorts:

Couples Resorts, Jamaica
Cambridge Beaches, Bermuda
El Dorado Resort, Quintana Roo, Mexico
Sans Souci, Jamaica
Super Clubs Grand Lido Negril, Caribbean
Breezes Montego, Montego Bay
Breezes Runaway Bay, Jamaica
Breezes Bahamas, Nassau
Secrets, Caribbean
Villa Premiere, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico



Jerry Steinberg



Childfree club activity



Olive and Bill Maxwell have been drawn by the tranquility of Firhall.



You have to be over 45 to live in Firhall.



Branquinho product lines

The label Branquinho is no longer exclusively for women: now they create men's designer clothes and 'Complice' (unisex style) shoes and accessories.

Shoes

From the enchanting high-heels, the comfortable flats, the coolness of strap sandals, and the warmth of leather boots, women always find they need a pair of shoes to match their new look. Véronique Branquinho designs footwear for her ladies.

1. High-heeled sandals, an ankle buckle, leather soles, and contrasting golden trimmed straps.

2. High-heeled sandals, a buckle by the ankle, and rubber soles.

Men's shoes

3. For men, the sandals are more comfortable and cool with distressed leather and stitching.

Accessory

4. It's a belt of knitted cotton strings. The black beads on the front enhance femininity.



Véronique Branquinho



1



2



3



4

Wear your inner complexity on your sleeve



By Shelley Xie

Every woman is a puzzle and you can never know what is hidden in her heart. Her clothes may be a mask to protect her fragile emotions or a way of expressing her inner self. For fashion designers, a person's soul is the starting point that leads to inspired creations.

Branquinho focuses on two questions: 'What is a woman?' 'What is the inner nature of being a woman?' Its designer, Véronique Branquinho, a Belgian born in 1973, began to explore female duality from the beginning of her career. While studying fashion at the Royal Academy of Antwerp, she did research into the many aspects of womanhood, but she nailed the subject when she began to show her own collections in Paris from Spring/Summer 1998 onward. Her popularity soon grew and she became a driving force in fashion.

"I'm inspired by the inner complexity of a woman, the struggle she has with ambiguous feelings, the acceptance or rejection of those feelings, and the search for harmony," said Véronique.

Branquinho girls we often see include ambiguous heroines like Laura Palmer, star of *Twin Peaks*, the lead character from the movie *Carrie*, or the sensual girls of David Hamilton's photographs. Focusing on the transition from girl to woman and all the contradictory emotions and desires that go with it, the brand is highly personal and seductive and trades frivolity for dignity: pleated floor-length skirts, smoking jackets, herringbone dresses, draped gauze tops and flowing pants.

Sometimes people sniff at the clothes "Sexy? Would you buy it?" But for Véronique, sexuality is about what's going on in your head, about a certain mood, not about showing breasts and legs. "It's an intellectual thing. I like the way that it gets a little bit complicated, a little bit mysterious. To conquer sex is much more attractive than the act itself."

Véronique attracts loyal followers

by presenting her collections like a personal diary.

She got inspiration for her Autumn/Winter 2003 collection from ice-dancing competitions. Even though ice-skaters are perceived as being confident, they are also fear failure, things going wrong, and growing up too early. So there are black dresses embroidered with silver thread, shimmering Lurex ballerina sweaters and thin jersey tops painted with gleaming platinum flames. Some of her designs have been in all her collections from the very beginning and have become her signature pieces. These include pants, skirts, blazers, shirts, turtlenecks and leggings, all united by monochrome purity. "I don't see the point of changing them every six months just because there is a new fashion season," she explains. "One of my favorite items is a pair of pants called Poison. They have been there since the start and they have been a bestseller since then." Véronique does not follow the latest fashions, and this endears her to her legions of fans.

Facts:

September 1998: "Biennale Della Moda" in Florence, Italy.

October 1998: VH1 Fashion Award "Best New Designer" New York.

1998: design the Spring/Summer 99 and Autumn/Winter 99-00 collections with Raf Simons for Italian company Ruffo Research. July 1999: exhibition at Colette. 2001: "Flemish Fashion: Design from Belgium" exhibition at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.

2003: launch of men's collection in Paris and opening of the flagship store in Antwerp.

2004: member of the official Belgian economical delegation to Shanghai China.

2005: three-year assignment as professor at the University of Angewandte Kunst Wien, Austria. Véronique has been a costume designer for different movies, and collaborated on several projects for theater and exhibitions.

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Finding something familiar in a strange place is the best way to make you feel happy. That is why we are drawn to products we are familiar with. It could be a teapot, a duvet, a shirt with the same logo, or a cute teddy bear.

MUJI means 'No name, no logo' in Japanese. When people give up the vanity of pursuing top brands, they discover that real style has no name. Atelier Peter Aumthor, a Swiss designer, created the expression Slow Design. The ideology later developed into a life philosophy: natural, simple, green, and cozy.

Finding MUJI

Finding MUJI near you MUJI, Shanghai, Nanjing Xi Lu

Their first chain store in China was built in Shanghai. It covers 743 square meters, smaller than those in Japan. Mainly, it deals with furniture and home accessories (1,450 types), and has a small range of clothes and bags (about 100 types). The layout and structure is similar to IKEA. Office items and stationery are the best attraction. MUJI fans can find a variety of paper, notebooks, folders and pens there to suit their needs.

Beijing MUJI store in Grand Pacific Shopping Mall

This is the only MUJI store in Beijing and sells women's clothes only. Most of the items are from the MUJI chain stores in Hong Kong. The designs are typical of Hong Kong and Japanese styles. The size may be a little bit smaller than European brands, but they are more suited to petite girls. MUJI clothes, made from 100



Muji Shanghai

percent cotton, represent the natural look as well as being comfortable.

Beijing Ritan Commerce Tower

You need to be a shopping insider to know about this secret shopping spot. There are hundred of imported items in this seemingly commercial building. There is a Japanese stand inside selling MUJI products: clothes, cooking

items, and stationary. You should haggle because the prices are usually very high.

Japanese Store under Huaqingjiayuan, Wudaokou, Haidian, Beijing

There is a line of lovely small shops selling Japanese and Korean things. The owners have good taste. You can find Japanese originals there, but you must be prepared to haggle hard.



Classic Hanging CD player

Want to see how fast your CD spins when it is playing? The transparent MUJI CD player satisfies all of your curiosity. Following MUJI's ideology of simplicity and ease there are no buttons to press. You just need to plug and unplug it. The design won the Good-Design of Japan award and the German iF gold award.

Available: Shanghai MUJI store, Nanjing Xi Lu
Price: 1,000 yuan



Canvas Hand Bags

Made from washable canvas, cotton and artificial leather. Matches all kinds of clothes and situations.

Available: Shanghai MUJI store, Nanjing Xi Lu
Price: 390 yuan



Woolen bear mini pillow

MUJI's policy of using natural materials is evident in this bear. All the skin is woven from first-class cashmere produced in Inner Mongolia. It brings you warmth and sweet dreams.

Available: Huaqingjiayuan, Wudaokou, Haidian
Price: 150 yuan



Casual Belt

Fashionable leather belt.
Available: Ritan Commerce Tower, Dongcheng
Price: 262 yuan (If you haggle)



Tea Sets

Collection of pottery made from natural materials.

Available: Japanese Store, Huaqingjiayuan, Wudaokou, Haidian
Price: 126 yuan



Compact Mirror

This face-sized mirror can be carried anywhere.

Available: Japanese Store Huaqingjiayuan, Wudaokou, Haidian
Price: 180 yuan



Mauve String Top and Jeans

100 percent cotton products. A Bohemian top, with lovely lace round the bottom, makes you look brisk and sweet. The jeans match all shoes and express sexiness in a casual way.

Available: Grand Pacific Shopping Mall, Xidan, Xicheng
Price: Top: 250 yuan; Jeans: 280 yuan



MUJI Toning water

Soften and refresh your skin. Apply each day before bed.

Available: Japanese Store, Huaqingjiayuan, Wudaokou, Haidian
Price: 80 yuan

Hurry curry



By Chu Meng

Love is one of the main requirements in the course of one's life and is certainly an indispensable seasoning! Yet curry is the soul of Thai cuisine. Every cuisine has its own features and merits. Guangdong cuisine has the edge, with its lightly flavored food and use of rare ingredients. Sichuan cuisine is famous for being spicy, and Shanghai's culinary reputation is that its food is a little sweet. Thai cuisine is strong in flavor and rich in numerous spices. It is said that Thai cuisine uses hundreds and thousands of different spices – all vying with renowned French perfumes.

Photo by Chu Meng

Best decoration: Banana Leaf Thai Restaurant



By Chu Meng

The Banana Leaf restaurant serves Chinese-style Thai food. If you are a curry lover, never dine there. They purchase most of the raw materials, ingredients, and the most important chili spices locally. Their chefs are not from Thailand. Although all of them have been sent abroad for training, they can hardly have noses for curries and spices like Indian or Thai chefs do. Many of their chain stores in other cities have had inevitable reports of a decline in the taste of the food and the service standards.

However, it has won a good reputation for its elaborate decorations. In the hall, leaves and pineapples hang from the trees, which also provide shade. Their iced beverages are acceptable.

Where: Sanlitun, No.4 Gongtibeilu road.
Tel: 65063399



Stars in your eyes

By Niall O Murchadha

In the world of cuisine, Chinese people employ some basic assumptions: Chinese food is the best in the world; French and Italian food comes in second and third, in no particular order.

Indian food has traditionally not featured in this mindset. However, Chinese people may be shocked at how foreigners would rate Chinese food compared with Indian.

The food at Asian Star sates the cravings of body, mind, and soul, and would even distract a condemned man from his execution. The barbecued chicken in a buttered tomato sauce tickles the throat like a soothing balm. The mutton and Indian rice offers a pleasant respite from the banalities of your bog-standard *mifan*. The vegetable rolls offer a taste explosion of vegetables and spices.

All of this is accentuated with



Photo by Chu Meng

warm naan bread drizzled with garlic. After that, the taste buds and stomach will be sated, a last meal that would see any convict strolling contentedly to the gallows.

The cornerstone of the food is the fact the food is cooked by an Indian and all of the

spices and herbs are painstakingly imported from India. This is perhaps why Asian Star is going strong after fifteen years in business.

Chef

Having spent the last 12 years preparing food at Asian Star, Dev Singh Chodhri is surely one of Beijing's longest-serving foreign chefs. But Singh's experience does not stop there. He spent three years working in Turkey and four years working in Hong Kong before coming to Beijing.

Singh's cooking style is New Delhi Punjabi, but he can cater for any food requests from anywhere on the Indian sub-continent, and can even manage some Turkish dishes.

Where: 26, East third ring road
Open: 11am-2pm, 5pm-10:30pm
Tel: 6582 5306

Balti Chicken Tikka Masala

Curry type: Balti
Strength: Medium
Difficulty: Moderate
Ingredients:

For the chicken tikka marinade
2 pieces of chicken breast cut into cubes
2 tablespoons of tandoori/tikka paste
1 teaspoon of chopped fresh mint
2 teaspoons of ground fenu-greek
10 oz Greek or natural yogurt
1 teaspoon red food coloring.
For the curry sauce
2 medium onions chopped small
2 cloves of fresh garlic chopped small
1 inch piece root ginger, peeled and chopped small
2 teaspoons balti/curry paste
1 can plum tomatoes
1 teaspoon garam masala
2 tablespoons fresh coriander chopped small
1 green chili de-seeded chopped small
half a cup cooking oil for the sauce and half a cup to fry the marinade

Instructions: Assemble the ingredients for the marinade, mix together in a glass container and marinade overnight

Heat the oil in a wok, fry the onions, garlic and ginger till soft on medium heat, add tomatoes, curry paste, stir for a few minutes, add chiles, lower heat & cook until oil starts to separate. Take off the heat and let cool. Once cool, transfer to blender and blend till



smooth.

Heat oil in wok, add all the chicken pieces with half the marinade & cook until the chicken is done. Remove the chicken to a clean bowl.

Reheat the curry sauce, add the cooked chicken, stir in the garam masala, transfer to pre-heated balti dishes, sprinkle over the fresh coriander and serve with your favorite Indian naan bread.

Note: You can add pre-cooked vegetables to the sauce after the chicken goes in.

Best Bites: Red Basil Thai restaurant

By Chu Meng

With a great location and tasteful design, Red Basil has become a hip place to dine for the expat and Chinese yuppie crowd. But what about the food?

Red Basil, or zitianjiao, was opened recently by Bangkok publisher Sondhi Limtongkul on the other side of the Third Ring Road from the Lufthansa Center. Like many of the new Asian restaurants, Red Basil is definitely upscale. The dining area is tastefully decorated. The most notable decorations at Red Basil are the large mirrors strategically hung around the dining area.

For those used to Thai food, Red Basil's menu is pretty standard. Be warned that 'standard'



Thai food utilizes a great deal of chili (both fresh and powdered), and unlike many Thai restaurants in Beijing, Red Basil's menu omits the symbols indicating the 'fire' rating of each dish. If spicy food is not for you, inform your waiter in advance. Then again, if you really do not like spicy food, what are you doing in a Thai restaurant?

The menu includes appetizers, soups, curries, seafood,

house specialties, noodles, rice, vegetable dishes and dessert. The menu includes such classics as Phad Thai (rice noodles in spicy peanut sauce), Tom Kari Kai (spicy soup made of coconut cream, chicken and galangal shoot) and numerous curries. Both the curries (Geang Masaman Nuer and Geang Karee Kai) were tasty, though a tad salty. Unfortunately, Thai ice coffee, a common accompaniment to Thai food, is disappointingly absent.

Where: Sanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang (Third Ring Road south of San Yuan bridge)
Tel: 6460-2339
Open: 11:30 am-2 pm for lunch, 5:30-10 pm for dinner

Qian & Gui -Journey of a ceaseless song



Drum Tower at sunset

Drum Tower

Getting off the coach, I headed for where buses to Chengyang would pass. Inevitably, the magnificent top of a pagoda like tower thrust itself into my view.

A local fruit vendor told me proudly that it was Sanjiang Drum Tower, the biggest Dong tower in the world. In the following days, I scanned many drum towers, new and old, in different Dong villages, but none impressed me more than this one.

The Drum Tower, the landmark and soul of every Dong village, together with the hanging buildings, are the main constructions of the Dong people.

Compared with other venerable drum towers, Sanjiang Drum Tower, finished in November 2002, is a baby. Like other drum towers, Sanjiang Drum-tower is built of fir, and neatly connected by tenons and mortises, without a nail or a rivet.

It is a 42.6 meter high wooden building with 27 multi-layered eaves and columns, raised by more than 60 pillars. Its architecture is complex and exquisite. Four bulk columns of Chinese fir, each aged more than 200 years, with a diameter of more than 70 centimeters, are set up to the top with dozens of smaller columns around them.

Unlike other drum towers without floors, Sanjiang Drum Tower has fixed stairs leading to the four sight-seeing platforms. The cackle stairs wind from the ground to the 25th corridor. Looking up from the central part of the ground hall, numerous columns, girders, and rafters weave a spidery web, which makes you feel giddy and dizzy.

Sanjiang- homeland of drum towers and the wind-and-rain bridge

By Cookie Wu

With a determined heart, I stepped into the carriage of No. T5, starting my seven-day journey to Guizhou and Guangxi. Twenty two hours later, I was still drowsy but I was standing on the soil of Guilin in Guangxi, breathing the fresh and humid air of south China.

Saying has it that 'East or west, Guilin is best!' But this beautiful place for me was only a transfer, not the destination.

The first place I was going to was Sanjiang. It is a Dong (a minority in China) Autonomous County, situated on the border of Guangxi, Guizhou and Hunan provinces and is famous for its Chengyang wind-and-rain bridge.



Wind-and-rain bridge



Inside the wind-and-rain bridge

Photos by Cookie Wu

Chengyang wind-and-rain bridge

Thirty minutes after passing verdant hills, clear and emerald brooks, and rotating waterwheels in different sizes, the notable bridge greeted me from a backdrop of greenery.

Chengyang wind-and-rain bridge is protected as a valued relic. Built in 1916, the body of the bridge is divided to three tiers, with five piers and four bridge openings. The five pavilions are built at regular intervals with flying eaves and a unique style.

As with the drum tower, the whole bridge is built without nails. Big and small columns, girders, and rafters are delicately connected with mortises. They are closely connected without a seam.

There were not as many tourists as I had assumed, so I really enjoyed my leisurely walk through this grand, rainbow like bridge to the village. Long stools were set up on both sides of the bridge for people to rest. From the railing you could see the Linxi River windingly flowing under; on both sides of the river it was full of tea forests and green woods on the sloping hills. The renowned villages of Chengyang came into view, nestling themselves in the mirror like paddy rice field.



Dong Girls in traditional clothes

Chengyang village

Entering the village, I found the square by tracing the melodious musical sound.

A group of Dong girls with traditional clothes and decorations were dancing in simple and unvarnished paces accompanied by the rhythm of Dong boys' bamboo flute. At the back of the square was the venerable drum tower. A few old Dong people played Chinese chess leisurely inside of it, taking a glance or two at the dancing boys and girls casually sometimes.

While singing the toast song, girls poured every guest a small cup of home made rice wine and encouraged us to *ganbei*.

Then it was time for the bamboo dance. Pairs of bamboo sticks opened and closed with the *lusheng* rhythm. The dancers hopped airily between them in the garden.

I was invited by an apple-cheeked Dong girl to join them. She showed me the regular pace. We walked in front of the bamboo sticks, hand in hand, hopping swiftly through the fluttering bamboo sticks, gazing at each other. A toothless grandmother, napping on a big rock, was woken by our laughter. She grinned at us, as if we were her naughty granddaughters.

Tips:

Transportation:

Road: From Guilin directly to Longsheng by bus. Then to Sanjiang for about four hours; the ticket price is around 10 yuan. Then, a bus from Sanjiang to Chengyang; tickets are four yuan.

Railway: Take train to Liuzhou, then change to Sanjiang County (tickets 19 yuan). Carrying on to Chengyang Wind-and-Rain Bridge by other means of transport.

Accommodation:

The average price of the hostels ranges from 15 yuan to 50 yuan.

Food:

In the county: Snacks: 3-10 yuan/fen.

In the home hostel: various food are provided such as noodles, stir-fried vegetables, vegetables stir-fried with preserved ham, vegetable soup, and drinks like milk and coffee.





Mozart on local chocolate boxes



The old residence of Mozart

Photos by CFP

Celebrating Mozart's 250th birthday

By Lucky Zhang

In Salzburg, everything seems to have connections with Mozart. There is no escaping his legacy, as you will find his name on hotels, his face plastered on signs, and a multitude of chocolates he appears to endorse in his latent state.

Mozart spent his childhood and youth in Salzburg. Thus, his birthplace and former residence were kept in the city. Locals have also built a statue of him.

Birthplace

Not far from the city hall, in the street of Getreidegasse No. 9, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in 1756. The Mozart family

lived here from 1747 to 1773.

Today, the third floor of this four-floor building, where the Mozart family lived, turns out to be one of the most popular tourist destination in the city. Everyday, fans from all over the world come and visit to show their reverence. Mozart's childhood violin, his concert violin, clavichord, the piano-forte, portraits and correspondences from the Mozart family are the most famous exhibits in the house.

Contact:

Tel: 0043662 844313

Fax: 0043662 840693

Email: archiv@mozarteum.at

Opening Hours: Daily 9 am-6 pm (5:30 pm last tickets) Jul, Aug: daily 9 am-7 pm (6:30 pm last tickets)

Admission Fee: 6 Euro

Residence

The Mozart family moved to Makartplatz No. 8 locating along the Salzach River in 1773. Before Mozart moved to Vienna, he had composed more than 150 works in the house.

In 1996, the house was open to the public after renovation. The Museum on the first floor records the building's history and the life of the Mozart family. You can also see the famous painting

The Mozart Family by Nepomuk della Croce here. The exhibition here focuses on Mozart's life and work, especially his touring performances and his sister Maria Anna Walpurga.

Contact:

Tel: 0043662 87422740

Fax: 0043662 872924

Email: archiv@mozarteum.at

Opening Hours: Daily 9 am-6 pm (5:30 pm last tickets)

Closed periodically during Mozart Week when concerts take place

Jul, Aug: daily 9 am-7 pm (6:30 pm last tickets)

Admission fee: 6 Euro



Combined ticket for Residence and Birthplace 2006: 9.5 Euro

Events celebrating Mozart's 250th birthday

In order to celebrate and commemorate the famous musician, a series of concerts, opera performances and exhibitions are being held in Salzburg, which could make your trip to the city more colorful and interesting.

Salzburg, in the center of Austria, is well known as the city of music. Music festivals are held here every year, which enables people to enjoy the musical feasts made by world famous philharmonics and conductors. It is also an old city listed in the World Culture Heritages by UNESCO.

Also as the home of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and the famous Hollywood film *The Sound of Music*, Salzburg attracts people from all over the world.

The city could be a melodious and touching old song, telling people stories of the old times; or an exquisite old painting.

Salzburg – home of Mozart



The hills are alive with the sound of music...

Following The Sound of Music

by Lucky Zhang

The Sound of Music, the Hollywood movie from 1965, made people's thoughts fly to the beautiful city, Salzburg. Today, the 'Original Sound of Music Tour' is one of the most popular tours in the city.

The tour will take you approximately four hours to see the breathtaking views of the landscape where the opening scenes of the movie were filmed, the von Trapp house, the lake where the children fall in, the church where Baron von Trapp and Maria got married, the glass pavilion where Liesel and Rolf danced, the gardens where the children and Maria minced around singing *Do-Re-Mi*...

During the tour, you can relax and listen to the original *Sound of Music* soundtrack, while the guide shows you not only the highlights of the film

but also the historical and architectural landmarks in the city, as well as a part of the picturesque lake district.

Locations in the Sound of Music Tour:

Mirabell Gardens – The mirabell Gardens were laid out in the 18th century. Maria and the children were seen dancing around the statue of Pegasus, the winged horse, and throughout the gardens singing *Do-Re-Mi*.

Leopoldskron Castle – the front side of the castle was used as the Trapp family home. The children were boating on the Leopoldskron Lake and fell into the water.

Hellbrunn Castle – This hunting castle was built in the early 17th century. The glass pavilion here was the place where one of the famous and romantic scenes was filmed: I am 16 going on 17.

Nonnberg Abbey – It is the oldest convent in the German speaking part of Europe. Maria was a novice there. Baron von Trapp and Maria were married here in 1927. The scenes for the movie made here include the opening with the nuns going to mass and Maria coming too late.

St. Gilgen and Lake Wolfgang – Scenery shown at the beginning of the movie was filmed at Lake Fuschl on the way to St. Gilgen. Like the Mozart family, visitors from all over the world appreciate the beautiful village in the Salzkammergut.

Wedding Church Mondsee – In Mondsee Cathedral the film wedding between Maria and von Trapp took place.

Other locations:

Residenz Square and Residenz Fountain: Maria crosses Residenz square in a bus on her

way from Nonnberg Convent to the Trapp Villa singing *I have confidence in me*.

Felsenreitschule: here, the Trapp Family performed its farewell song and Baron von Trapp sang Edelweiss

St. Peter's Cemetery: it was the place where the dramatic flight scenes were filmed

Frohnburg Palace: courtyard and main front were used as a backdrop

Information about the Sound of Music Tour:

Daily departure time: 9.30 am and 2 pm

Duration: 4 hours

Price: 35 euro for adults and 18 Euro for 4-12 years old children

You can also book the Tour:

Tel: 0043-662-883211-0

Fax: 0043-662-871618

Email and Bookings: sightseeing@panoramatours.com

Looking for quick, easy-to-prepare snacks?

You are apt to opt for good-for-you snacks if you stock your refrigerator and shelves with foods that are fast - not fussy. These ideas for healthy snacks minimize fat and calories and maximize whole grains, fruits and vegetables.

* Toast one-half of a whole-wheat muffin. Top with one slice of bacon, a tomato slice, and one slice of low-fat American cheese. Microwave until the cheese melts.

* Mash half a banana into 2 teaspoons peanut butter and spread onto a whole-grain bagel. Large bagels contain up to 400 calories, so choose a smaller 2-ounce bagel.

* Mix 1/4-cup of cold leftover chicken or convenience-type

chunk chicken with sliced seedless grapes, 1/2 tablespoon sunflower seeds, 1-tablespoon plain yogurt or fat-free mayonnaise, and a dash of curry powder. Stuff into a hollowed-out green pepper or half of a whole-wheat pita pocket.

* Spread 1 tablespoon of part-skimmed ricotta cheese over one-half of a small cinnamon-raisin bagel. Sprinkle with cinnamon if desired and top with apple slices.

* Layer a soft mini corn or flour tortilla with 2 tablespoons shredded low-fat cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese. Microwave until the cheese melts. Slice into bite-size pie shapes. Dip into some salsa if desired.

* Spread 1-ounce ricotta

cheese over a brown rice cake. Layer with fresh strawberries or a tablespoon of sugar-free spreadable fruit. Or try using a spread of herbed goat cheese and sliced olives.

* Top a small baked potato with 2 tablespoons of nonfat plain yogurt and sprinkle with Cajun seasoning.

* Spread 1 tablespoon of fruit-flavored low-fat yogurt or 100 percent fruit jam over a slice of whole-grain crisp bread.

Heed your hunger pangs, but forget the guilt. With planning and a little preparation, you can have healthy foods on hand so you're ready when temptation strikes.

By Chu Meng

Your stomach is growling but lunch is hours away. You eye the cookies on the counter, but know that you will feel guilty if you indulge. If you think your best option is to avoid the snack altogether and wait for lunch, think again!

Choose your snacks wisely

Select foods that can satisfy your hunger, supply your body with energy, and provide important nutrients. Choose a wide variety of these foods to ensure that you get all the necessary nutrients, and to make your snacks more interesting. Here are some of your best snack picks:

* Whole grains. Whole-grain snacks are rich in complex carbohydrates and fiber, which give you immediate energy that has some staying power. Look for items such as low-fat whole-grain crackers, whole-grain pretzels and whole-grain crisp breads.

* Fruits and vegetables. Eating fruits and vegetables provides a feeling of fullness with no fat and only a small amount of calories. They also provide vitamins, minerals, fiber and other nutrients.

* Nuts and seeds. Nuts and seeds are a good source of protein and help keep you feeling fuller longer. The fat in nuts and seeds is monounsaturated fat: a healthy kind of fat. Nuts and seeds are high in calories so they should not be consumed in large quantities.

* Low-fat dairy products. Cheese, yogurt and other dairy products are good sources of calcium, protein, and other nutrients. Dairy products can be high in fat, so choose the low-fat versions. Yogurt may have a lot of added sugar, so you may want to consider 'light' yogurt if you want to limit your calorie intake.

Though snacks can contribute to a healthy diet, they can also be a source of excess calories if not eaten in moderation. For example, a reasonable amount of almonds (a handful) contains 164 calories. But if you eat handful after handful until it totals a cup of almonds, the calorie count jumps to 800-plus calories.

So what are your best choices? Here are several suggestions:

Healthy snack options

10 calories: One large stalk of celery

25 calories: One cup of raw vegetables
12 calories: One medium baby carrot

50 calories: 1 cup of oil-popped popcorn or 2 cups air-popped or light popcorn
13 calories: 1/2 cup of grapes
13 calories: 1/2 cup of raisins
13 calories: 1/2 cup of roasted cashews (about five whole cashews)
13 calories: A small can of vegetable juice

100 calories: 1 cup of sliced bananas and fresh raspberries
20 calories: 2 domino-sized slices of low-fat cheddar cheese
10 calories: 1 fat-free chocolate pudding cup

150 calories: 1/2 cup of frozen, low-fat yogurt topped with 1/2 cup blueberries
100 calories: 1 cup of sliced apples with 1 tablespoon of smooth peanut butter
40 calories: 4 slices of whole-grain crisp bread (a wafer-thin cracker)

200 calories: 1/4 cup of dry roasted soy nuts (calories vary by brand)
100 calories: 1/3 cup of granola
100 calories: 1 cup of low-fat cottage cheese topped with sliced fresh peaches

How to snack and stay healthy

what to choose when hunger strikes

How to choose your own snacks



Best snacks, worst snacks

Snack attack: know what to choose when hunger strikes

A range of snacks can fit into a healthy lifestyle so you do not need to avoid them. Instead, they need to be selected with variety, moderation and balance in mind. Find out why and how snacks fit into a healthy diet and discover creative ways to satisfy your hunger.

The benefits of snacking

You may feel guilty about snacking, but snacks are not necessarily bad. In fact, mini-meals several times a day can be beneficial. Here is how:

* Binge control. If eating several low-fat whole-grain crackers, a few pretzels, a piece of fruit, or raw vegetables keeps you from taking second or third helpings at your next meal, you may actually consume fewer total calories for the day.

* Extra energy and nutrients. Traditional, homemade meals often lose out to busy schedules. A quick snack can be the difference between some nourishment and none at all.

* Satisfaction for small appetites. Young children's tiny stomachs can hold only small portions of food at one time. Young girls who are on a diet and older adults who are less active and who burn fewer calories also may feel more comfortable eating smaller, more frequent meals.

What are quick, easy-to-prepare snacks?

Best snacks, worst snacks

Feel a snack attack coming on? Follow this list of do's and don'ts so you can indulge without blowing your healthy diet. There is no reason why you should deny yourself a snack. Post this list on your fridge.

Best Snacks

Popcorn

If you microwave, buy microwave popcorn that is 98 percent fat free. It is OK to drizzle on a teaspoon of butter if you crave the flavor. You are still consuming less fat than you would if you popped a bag of regular microwave popcorn.

Fruit and fruit smoothies

This is the ultimate tasty but healthy snack choice. For a complete snack that will sustain you through the afternoon, make a fruit smoothie in your blender. Use low-fat yogurt, fruits such as berries and bananas, ice, and a little 100 percent fruit juice or milk as your base.

Yogurt and frozen yogurt

Yogurt does not need sugar to taste good. Buy plain yogurt and add something to it, like cereal and fresh fruit, for a truly

healthy snack.

Vegetables

You cannot find a healthier snack. A dip, like light ranch dip, goes well with assorted vegetables on a platter.

Cereal

Ah, the favorite snacks of the young and single set! Choose higher-fiber, lower-sugar options such as oatmeal.

Peanut Butter

True, peanut butter is loaded with calories, but it is an OK snack if you eat just one tablespoon spread over several whole-grain crackers or a slice of whole-wheat bread.

Chocolate

Chocolate? Sure, as long as you opt for a small piece. If you are a chocolate lover it is better to have a little bit of chocolate everyday. If you deprive yourself, you will end up compulsively overeating.

Worst Snacks

Cookies

If they are fat-free, cookies are not so great, and you end up eating more. Cookies are something you should enjoy, but not

as a regular snack.

Cake

As much as we love it, cake is not a snack. With about 400 calories per slice, cake is more like a mini-meal without nutritional value.

Granola bars

The chewier they are, the more sugar and fat they have. The healthy ones are crunchy, and not coated in chocolate. If you truly crave granola bars, make your own. There are good recipes out there. And then you can choose the oil, fruits, grains that go into them.

Cheese and crackers

This snack sounds healthy, but both cheese and crackers are usually loaded with fat. Try using Kraft Two Percent or Jarlsberg Light cheese on whole-grain, low-fat crackers for a lighter version of this snack.

Chips or nachos

Chips are still the type of snack that people tend to overeat. You are better off eating a real potato.

Stage in June

**Harlequin Rencontre
Zhong Kui by Didier Ga-
las, one man show in
French and Chinese**



When: June 1-2
Where: Central Academy
of Drama

2006 French Piano Festival



When: June 2-4
Where: Zhongshan Music
Hall

Concert Series by the China National Sym- phony Orchestra

When: June 3-17
Where: Beijing Concert
Hall

Performance by singers from the Moscow Theater

When: June 10
Where: The Millennium
Monument Concert Hall

Aida by Compagnia Marionettistica Carlo Colla and Sons

When: June 10-11
Where: Beijing Children's
Theater

Large-sized Dance Dra- ma 'Ma and Le Visiting the Sky'

When: June 13-14
Where: Poly Theater

Ballet Giselle

When: June 28-29
Where: Tianqiao Theater

**'The Power of Beauty'
The 5th Anniversary of
Twelve Girls Band**
When: June 16
Where: Beijing Exhibition
Theater

2006 China Internation- al Volleyball Match for Women

When: June 1-3
Where: Beijing Space and
Aviation University Gymna-
sium

Friday, May 19

Music
**A multi-media performance
by 18 famous DJs from
across the world**



Where: Club Tango, 79 Hepingli
Xijie, south gate of Ditan Park,
Dongcheng District
When: until May 20
Admission: 60 yuan
Tel: 6428 2288
**Mitabe-Reggae night with
Madagascan musicians**

Where: Yugong Yishan, Chunxiu
Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 10 pm, May 19
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6415 0687

Hang on the Box
*A set by one of Beijing's most
famous punk outfits*
Where: D-22, 13 Cheng Fu Lu
(half-way between Wudaokou
Subway and Beijing University
East Gate), Haidian District
When: 10 pm, May 19
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6265 3177

Exhibition
Group Exhibition
*Catch the work of this gallery's
artists, including Ding Yilin,
Wang Yuping and Liu Kezheng
and others.*
Where: Beijing East Gallery,
Deshengmen Watchtower,



Xicheng District
When: Until June 30
Admission: Free
Tel: 8201 4962

Dance
Modern dance: Phoenix
Where: Yan Club, 4 Jiuxianqiao
Lu, Chaoyang
When: until May 21
Admission: 60 yuan
Tel: 6438 2797

Movie
The Da Vinci Code
*Ron Howard's 125-million-dol-
lar film of Dan Brown's best-*



*selling book, starring Tom Hanks
and Audrey Tautou. The story
tells of Jesus marrying Mary
Magdalene and having a child
with her whose descendants are
still alive today.*
Where: Beijing New Century
Cinema, Oriental Plaza, No.1
east Changan Ave.
When: Until June 30
Admission: 70 yuan
Tel: 8518 5399

Saturday, May 20

Exhibition
**Leonardo da Vinci Inventor – Sci-
ence and technology of the Italian
Renaissance**

*The exhibition is
arranged in three
sections dis-
playing copies of
over 50 amazing
models of machin-
ery designed or
made by*



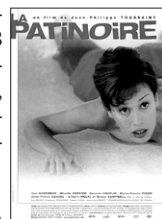
*Brunelleschi, Tac-
cola, Francesco di
Giorgio and Leonardo da Vinci with
materials and techniques of their time.*
Where: Beijing Natural History
Museum, 126 Tianqiao South Street,
Chongwen
When: until July 31
Admission: 25 yuan
Tel: 6702 3096

Movie
Jean Philippe Toussaint Special –

**Two movies by Jean-Philippe Tous-
saint: La Patinoire (The Icerink)**
and Monsieur

Where: French Cul-
tural Center, 18
Guangcai Interna-
tional Apartment,
West Road of Work-
ers' Stadium, Cha-
oyang
When: 6 pm & 8 pm
Admission: 10yuan
/ 20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Ben Hur
*Legendary tale of
revenge, starring
gun-crazed actor
Charlton Heston
as a muscular
Jewish prince.
Based on the post-
Civil War novel
written by General
Lew Wallace*



Where: Space for Imagination, Xi
WangZhuang, Wudaokou, Haidian
When: 7:30 pm, May 20
Admission: Free
Tel: 6279 1280

Music
Glamorous Melon
*The fusion of circus-like folk rock
act Glamorous Pharmacy with the
defunct, quirky, folk jam band Wood
Pushing Melon.*

Where: 2Kolegas Bar, Dong Feng Road,
east of Liang Ma Qiao, Chaoyang
When: 9 pm, May 20
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 8196 4820

**Car-sick Cars – noisy, drone-driven
post-punk melodies**
Where: D-22, 13 Cheng Fu Lu (half-
way between Wudaokou Subway and
Beijing University East Gate), Haidian
When: 10pm, May 20
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6265 3177

Sunday, May 21

Exhibition
**Solo Exhibition of Xing
Hailong – Exploration of
black which expresses his
feelings about art and life.**



Where: One Moon Art, Di Tan
Park Dongcheng
When: 11am-7pm from Tuesday
to Sunday, until mid-July
Admission: Free
Tel: 6427 7748

Movie
Clean
*Emily is the wife of has-been
rock star Lee Hauser who dies*



*of a heroin overdose. Emily
is arrested for possession and
after spending six months in
prison, decides to restart her life
in Paris where she once lived,
only to find out that things have
changed dramatically.*
Where: French Cultural Centre,
18 Guangcai International
Apartment, West Road of Work-
ers' Stadium, Chaoyang
When: 6 pm and 8 pm
Admission: 10 yuan/20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Outdoors
**Backstreet Beijing walk-
ing tour**

*'Back-Street-Beijing' Walking
Tour, organized by Chinese cul-
ture Club will take you to the
magnificent palace complex of
the Shrines of Emperors of all
Dynasties as well as nearby
hutongs. The walk concludes
with a visit to a pet market.*
Where: Meet at the Chinese Cul-
ture Club
When: 2pm-6pm, May 21
Price: 120 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341

Service
**Champagne Brunch at Gar-
den Court**
Seafood, American and Austra-

lian beef, caviar and desserts
Price: 398 yuan + 15% service
charge
Where: The Garden Court, St
Regis Hotel
When: May 21 and May 28
Tel: 64606688

Nightlife
Ultimate Sunday Seduction
*Guest DJ G Dee presents a selec-
tion of breaks, sexy house and
progressive beats. Free test tube
cocktails for all those on the
dance floor.*
Where: Bar Blu
When: 9:30 pm - 2:00 am, every
Sunday
Admission: Free
Tel: 6417 4124

(Qiu Jiaoning)

Reader competition

Five lucky readers can each win a non-invasive treatment session that generates a natural facelift worth 1,000 yuan.

Read the following paragraph, answer the easy question below and email your name, mobile phone number and answer to btcompetition@ynet.com before Wednesday May 24 2006 at 12:00.

Bioscor International is a leader in Cosmetic Medicine. Superpulsed radio frequency is non-invasive treatment and generates a natural facelift. For more information contact (010) 6503 5707 or visit www.bioscor.com.cn.

Question:
Where in Beijing can you get a natural facelift?

Privileges

Kunlun Prestige Club 'KPC' is a loyalty program designed by Hotel Kunlun to provide unique and generous privileges to our regular guests. As a member of KPC, from the moment you reach our door, you will be recognized as our privileged guest. You will receive a range of additional benefits and privileges. "The more you stay with us, the more benefits you will receive!" KPC has three levels of membership from Jade, Gold to Diamond. The levels and privileges are based on the number of times you stay at Hotel Kunlun.

Kunlun Prestige Club Privileges include:

- * Free stay for spouses
- * Complimentary daily buffet breakfast
- * 6 p.m. late check out without additional charges, for your comfort and convenience.
- * 10% discount in all restaurants
- * Complimentary airport limousine and

Kunlun Prestige Club

butler service

* Free room upgrade

For details call 6590 3388 ext. 5195 or go to www.hotelkunlun.com



200 yuan for all drinks

Let's drink

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Loft

The restaurant-and-bar Loft (Zang Ku, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District) has cut the price of their delicious northern Chinese dishes until June 10. Their special menu includes; boiled ormer, braised venison, baked duck and grilled beef. The restaurant also offers a selection of western dessert and Italian ice cream. For details call 6501 7501 or 6586 7877.

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My internship at NEC



By Han Manman

This week, four employees from different departments of NEC Telecommunications (China) talk about their internships at the company and share their experiences. Cao Laijing, vice president and HR director of NEC tells us about the secrets to their success.

"There is no common work but common people. Some work may seem easy but you can always tell if

the person who did it used their brain. For example, if your boss asks you to put together a list of the company's telephone contacts, you should think about asking around to check if some departments have changed their title or some staff have left without canceling their telephone numbers. Putting together a list of contacts may seem easy, but doing it well may not be as easy as you think," said Cao.



Comments from Cao:

Ren Juan is highly valued by her departmental boss. She has strong language skills, and speaks Japanese and English well. She can interpret and explain words that even our Japanese staff don't understand.

Ren also has a great ability to learn and a strong sense of communication. She has since changed her work from translation to project management. She is doing well at communicating with the Japanese staff and cooperating with the factory.

Ren Juan: works in the production exploitation department, graduated from Beijing Culture University two years ago, and joined NEC in 2004. My Japanese language skills and hard work were probably the main reasons for the boss selecting me.

I got the internship at NEC after taking three examinations, including a psychological test. I remember the boss seemed very satisfied with my interview. I came with three classmates to take the NEC preliminary interview. The boss asked what my answer would be if he said he

could only take on one out of four of us. It was a tricky question to answer but I said confidently that I hoped my classmates would get the chance but I knew that if I were selected I would not fail the company. On my first day as an intern, our department had a meeting and

asked me to join. They spoke Japanese but I didn't understand a word even I thought I had majored in Japanese. When they asked me to introduce myself I was scared. My Japanese colleague showed me how to start the work and showed me how to do a trans-

lation. I did a lot of translation during the internship. At the beginning, it was hard for me to translate for my Japanese boss because he criticized me a lot. But a few days later, I adjusted myself to the company and gradually started to do a good job.



Comments from Cao:

Chen Peng is a steady girl, not like some other students that dream of attain the highest level in one step. She is clever, sometimes I'll forget something, but she has still remembers.

I chose her because one of our joint ventures had just been set up and I needed to recruit lots

of people. We contacted Chen's class to help us organize the recruitment. She was the monitor at the university at that time. Everything was satisfactorily arranged. That group of students all did a very good job, which showed her organizational ability and influence. Her work continues to improve.

Chen Peng: works in the HR Department, graduated from China Foreign Affairs University two years ago and joined NEC in 2004.

I had a 10-day part time job at NEC before I was chosen to be an intern here. I guess the main reason for the boss choos-

ing me was because of my organizational skills. I was not only involved in translation work but also participated in other work over those 10 days. No matter what tasks I was assigned I tried to do the best. After that, my boss gave me a very good appraisal and asked me if I

wanted to be an intern in NEC. I made many mistakes during my internship. You need to use the right words to speak to people. Take making a telephone call as an example. There was one time when I needed to tell an interviewee that he had passed the first interview and

the time for the next interview. I said, "You have passed our examination," but my boss later pointed out to me that I should have said, "You have passed the preliminary examination." In the first few days of the internship I was also unaware that I needed to stand up when

I was speaking to my boss. My suggestion for those students who want to find an intern job is to not be afraid of making mistakes. If your boss points out your mistakes it shows he or she cares about you and is trying to help you. The more mistakes you make the more you will learn.

Comments from Cao:

As well as doing her own work, Wen always helps her department plan and organize other events. She also has lots of original ideas. For example, last year, to express our appreciation for NEC's media friends, we wanted to organize some events over the mid-autumn day. Wen suggested inviting reporters on an outing to the Beijing sub-

urbs, which was a new experience for the reporters and also saved the company money. She also organized the outing quite well.

Wen learns things very quickly. Because two members of staff left her department, she has been given some extra work, including updating our website, website adverts and website PR. Wen handled the situation very well.



Wen Zhiying: works in the Marketing Department, graduated from Beijing University of Technology two years ago and joined NEC in 2004.

The marketing department needed someone urgently to write company press releases,

so I was picked. At the time, I didn't think I would stay here more than three months, but I love it and I'm keen to stay. At the time my computer skills were pretty poor. My boss asked me to do an excel table and print it off for him. I ended

up giving him a very ugly looking chart because I didn't know how to use the excel settings. I remember that when I gave the table to my boss he looked pretty unhappy and howed it himself. When I knew how to use the settings, I did another

for him. He smiled and said nothing - I guess he realized I knew I'd made a mistake. I think my boss finally accepted me because of my hard work and proactive approach. I always speak out and tell people what I think,

which my boss appreciates. My press releases are better than the public relation company's press releases. I have shown my boss that I have already set up some good contacts and have strong communication skills.



Comments from Cao:

Liu Na is considerate and intelligent. Her department boss was satisfied with her work as an intern and recommended her to me.

She is a secretary in our design department. Some interns are also very good, but they don't want to do secretarial work. Liu is

willing to do it and tries to do it well.

Our company positions are not restricted to certain people. If Liu and others are interested in NEC's technology or other departments, they have the choice to learn about it and move to that department in the future.

Liu Na: works in the Product Design Department, graduated from China Foreign Affairs University one year ago and joined NEC in 2005.

I'm different from other interns. My graduate paper was about the

Japanese enterprise culture, so I was familiar with Japanese companies. I desperately wanted to do well in the NEC interview. Of course, one of the important reasons for the company selecting me was because my older schoolmate,

Chen Peng, recommended me. I think I learn to adjust to a new environment quickly. I also try to learn a lot from the internship. The NEC intern life is different from what I had imagined. I did a lot of part-time social work

before I came here. They didn't give me any important work, I just stood aside and watched how others worked and learned about the company's culture. But when I came here as an intern, I was given lots of important work

and responsibilities. Everyone is friendly in here. Working in this department at the beginning, I didn't understand what my colleagues said even when they spoke in Chinese. I told myself that I had a lot to learn.



Floating University

By Chen Shasha

The cruise liner *Royal Caribbean* and top universities in different countries have joined forces to offer an academic program on the ship to teach students about globalization. Applications for the first voyage of The Scholar Ship (TSS) are available now in China until September 30.

Sailing from Greece, the TSS will visit eight countries on five continents in 16 weeks. "It will be a valuable experience in a student's life," said Chris Jiang, who is in charge of the program in China. Students on board will be asked to communicate with students from different countries. Two students from one country will not be allowed to live in the same room.

In relation to visa for Chinese students, Jiang said that embassies of these eight countries are supporting the trip, which means students will have no problem traveling on board. "To be honest, some Chinese students may meet with visa problems that influence their field work on shore. But other things will be offered instead."

The president of TSS, Dr. Joseph Olander, has served in a broad-ranging and diverse set of administrative and academic roles within higher education in the US, China, and Australia.

Q: You served as President of The Evergreen State College and many other universities in the US. What made you decide to launch TSS? What are the differences between traditional universities and The Scholar Ship?

A: I have spent my whole

career in higher education. One of the reasons that made me decide to create TSS is that I am that kind of person who always wants to try new things and to work in a creative way. The differences between TSS and any traditional higher education institutions are listed below.

1. TSS is a well-structured intercultural higher education program, which consists of academic programs onboard a ship, an intercultural living community and onshore programs in different countries. All these give students tremendous opportunities to experience different cultures and learn from others from different cultures.

2. In a traditional university, students and teachers cannot experience by themselves different cultures through visits to where those cultures exist, though they can learn from books. But TSS offers distinctive opportunities both to students and teachers.

3. TSS's academic courses are from universities who are the best in their regions and can represent the cultures of that region. This makes our programs truly intercultural and this is not something a traditional university can easily offer.

Q: How many teachers at TSS are from top universities? What are the academic strengths of your university?

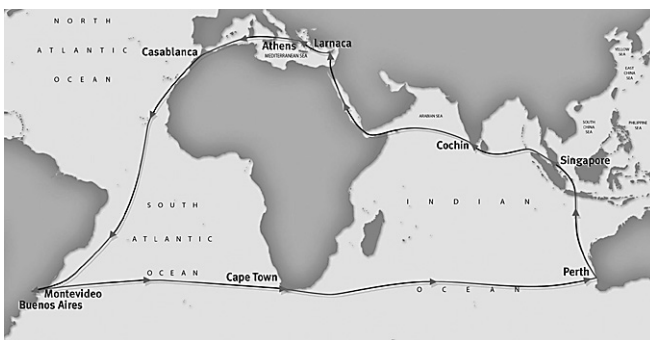
A: TSS has a consortium of academic stewards, who come from top universities from different regions. Since TSS is a semester academic program, our teacher-student ratio will be at the same level of any first



The Royal Caribbean cruise liner



Dr Joseph Olander, president of TSS



The planned route of TSS

class university. The academic strengths of TSS are as follows:

1. All courses are from top universities and have the same top academic quality as in those universities.

2. Teachers and professors will also come from our steward universities and academic partners.

Q: Tuition fees for TSS are US\$9,950 and living costs for the 16 weeks are US\$10,000, which is not cheap. Is there a scholarship system for students?

A: Currently we are working on setting up a foundation to offer scholarships. At the moment students can enjoy a 10-15 percent discount on the tuition part of the programs fee if he or she comes from an accredited partner of TSS.

Q: Field research tasks are offered in each voyage's port city to give students opportunities to do research in business and cultural circles. How is the practice arranged?

A: Visits to each port during the voyage will last from five days to a week. This is enough for

our students to accomplish their field-study assignments, which are given by professors on board the ship. During each port call, students will study themes related to their learning circles (majors). Students can also choose to participate in cultural travel (excursions) and independent travel subject to TSS's approval and academic arrangements.

Q: What are facilities like at your university?

A: TSS will provide all students and teachers with full insurance in accordance with RCCL's practice. With respect to the facilities onboard the ship, the ship is just like a floating campus and it has classrooms, library, cabin rooms, sports court, Internet service, a computer lab, etc. Students can study there just as they would on a traditional campus.

Q: How about your student recruitment plan?

A: TSS started its promotion this February and so far we have received more than 4000 enquiries from around the world. We are expecting 500-700 students for the first semester but we will closely monitor our student recruitment process to ensure that numbers of students will come from all different major cultures in the world. In our program, we will try to avoid any culture playing a dominant role and hence will keep a reasonable percentage of students coming from different cultures.

The first semester will begin in January 2007. For further information, go to "www.TheScholarShip.com"

Photos provided by TSS

► Follow Beijing Today

This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

My first time to be a host

By Xie Pei (student, Beijing University of Technology)

I always recall the days when I worked in the student Union in the first year of my college life. Although nearly a year has passed, I can still remember each detail.

Before I went to the university, like most high school students I spent almost all my time on study and my life was composed of various kinds of exercises and exams. I seldom attended any activity and communicated with others. Thus, I gradually formed the characteristic as a shy and timid person.

After I entered the university, I told myself, "I've had enough and now I want something different." Luckily an opportunity just came at that time. The Student Union started to provide some vacancies for freshmen. So I went there, filled out the forms, finished a written test and was given an interview. Several days later, someone called me and told me I was selected to be in charge of the English

Department. I was so excited with the news, but also felt very worried because I had no related experience before.

Soon I got the first task to organize and host an English lecture. I tried my best to prepare it well. I invited a famous foreign teacher to give the lecture, arranged a room and some equipments. Then when the day came, everything was settled except the only problem, that is, I got so nervous and felt hard to say anything when I stand on the platform. I had never spoken in front of so many people and I just wanted escape from there. But it was too late, everybody was looking at me and it was time to get start. I had no choice, I held up the microphone and said, "Good morning, everyone." Suddenly, there broke out a burst of laugh, and I heart the foreign teacher behind me was saying something, "It's evening, Echo!" Oh my god! I'd rather die at that moment. What a silly

mistake I make! And what should I do next. But I knew I couldn't just stand there, I had to say something. If I kept silence it would make me look like a real fool. So I tried to make myself calm down, thought for a while and held up the microphone again. "Well, you know. I prepared it in the morning." Then another burst of laugh broke out and I knew that they had forgive me.

For a long time after this activity, I regarded this experience as an unhappy one, a failure and wanted to forget it soon. But now several years later when I looked back on the tens of lectures I'd hosted, I won't feel sorry for any one no matter it is successful or not, instead, I appreciate all these experiences.



Rodge's comments

(Rodge is a foreign expert at Beijing Today)

Without getting bogged down in minor errors there are some broader 'Chinglish' errors in this piece.

Perhaps the most common Chinglish mistake is the inclusion of time words.

At the end of third paragraph it reads: 'felt very worried because I had no related experience before.' There is no need to include the word 'before' at the end of the sentence. Remember, there is no need for time words when you have different tenses.

The use of plurals and verb-subject agreement is also problematic in Chinese.

'I seldom attended any activity and communicated with others' in paragraph two should read 'I seldom attended any activities' (the end of the sentence should read 'or communicate with others').

In the fourth paragraph it reads 'and some equipments'. This

should read 'and some equipment'.

Using the wrong tense is also a big problem in Chinese writing.

In the fourth paragraph it reads 'when I stand up'. It should read 'when I stood up'.

In the final paragraph it reads 'when I looked back', but it should read 'when I look back' because the sentence refers to the present tense. 'What a silly mistake I make' in the fourth paragraph could be corrected by changing it to 'What a silly mistake to make'.

The end of the fourth paragraph reads 'they had forgive me'. It should read 'they had forgiven me'. The 'had' leads to an '-en' ending. Other examples of this agreement include 'had chosen', 'had eaten', 'had stolen', 'had taken', and 'had broken'.

The sentence 'I'd rather die at that moment' needs work. It could be re-written as 'I felt like I wanted to die'. Alternatively, you could be more dramatic: 'I wanted the ground to open up and swallow me'.

► Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see some chinglish signs, please take a picture and send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

Hint

Honorific guest:

Please give the product cash to stage to take care of, before sleeping invite anti the lock the door lock, the door bolt comes the door bolt, close the window and put on to put the , otherwise, the risk is complacent.

Camp dish guest house

The 'hint' in Guizhou

By Tom Mackenzie

The original one:

Honorific guest: Please give the product cash to stage to take care of, before sleeping invite anti the lock the door lock, the door bolt comes the door bolt, close the window and put on to put the, otherwise, the risk is complacent.

Camp dish guest house.

Comments

Found pinned to the door of a guesthouse in Guizhou province, this notice is an example of Chinglish at its best. Or worst,

depending on how you look at it. More 'Ching' than 'lish', it's a jumble of words so haphazardly put together it would make an acid-popping modern artist proud.

Below is a more structurally correct, though admittedly less amusing, example of how it could have been written.

Honorable guest,

Please pay at the front desk.

For your safety, lock the door with the bolt and close the window before going to sleep.

The manager,

Campdish Guesthouse



Chinglish outside the Tour Dispatch

By Tom Mackenzie

The original sentence:

Beijing Hub of Tour Dispatch serve the people heart and soul

Suggestions:

It's difficult to be sure what this sign means.

The first half of the sentence is capped up suggesting that "Beijing Hub of Tour Dispatch" is the name of the organization.

A better way to write this would be "Beijing Tour Center" or "Beijing Tour Group Headquarters" if that's what it is.

The rest of the sentence "serve the people heart and soul" reads like a phrase plucked straight from Mao's little red book.

If it really needs to be included, "Beijing Tour Center serves the people" would probably suffice.

From Eloisa to Abelard

By Alexander Pope

*How happy is the blameless vestal's lot!
The world forgetting, by the world forgot.
Eternal sunshine of the spotless mind!
Each prayer accepted and each wish resigned.*

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind



1 Mierzwiak and Mary are the doctor and nurse at the memory-erasing clinic. In fact, Mary had loved Mierzwiak and had been his wife for a long time. At her request, Mierzwiak erases her memories about him. One day later, she finds in the doctor's files the recording of their talk before the procedure began:

[Mierzwiak] Okay, so just tell me what you remember, and, uh, then we'll take it from there.

[Mary] Okay. I liked you immediately. You didn't come on to me⁽¹⁾ at all. I liked that. I was so tongue-tied⁽²⁾ around you at first. I wanted you to think I was smart. I couldn't wait to come to work. I had these fantasies of us being married...and having kids and...just--Oh, Howie, I can't do this.

[Mierzwiak] We agreed it's for the best⁽³⁾, Mary.

[Mary Crying] Yeah, I know. Oh, God.

2 In Joel's mind, he's sitting on the stairs of a beach house, watching a group of people flying kites on the shore. Clementine is in an orange coat standing with her back to him.

[Joel] (*Saying to himself*) This is the day we met. You were down by the surf. I could just make you out⁽⁴⁾ in the distance. I remember being drawn to you even then. I thought, "Wow, how odd, I'm drawn to someone's back." You were in that orange sweatshirt that I would come to know so well...and even hate, eventually. At the time I thought, "How cool! An orange sweatshirt."
(*Clementine appears suddenly beside Joel*)

[Clementine] Hi there.

[Joel] Hi.

[Clementine] I saw you sit-

ting over here...by yourself, and I thought, "Thank God. Someone normal who doesn't know how to interact at these things either."

[Joel] Yeah. I don't ever know what to say.

[Clementine] I'm Clementine. (*Finds he's eating chicken*) Can I borrow a piece of your chicken?

[Joel] (*jumps out of the scene*) And then you just took it...without waiting for an answer. It was so intimate, like we were already lovers.

(*back to the scene again and said to Clementine*) I'm Joel.

[Clementine] So, no jokes about my name.

[Joel] ...I think your name is magical.

[Clementine] (*as if she's trying to persuade Joel that he would finally get rid of his memories of her*) This is it, Joel. It's gonna be gone soon.

[Joel] I know.

[Clementine] What do we do?

[Joel] Enjoy it.

3 In Joel's mind, night. Clementine and Joel walk along the shore towards the beach house.

[Clementine] You married?

[Joel] No.

[Clementine] (*running to the door*) Let's move into this neighborhood!

[Joel] (*continues to answer Clementine's question*) I do sort of live with someone though.

[Clementine] Male or female?

[Joel] What? ...Female. Female.

[Clementine] At least I'm not barking up the wrong tree⁽⁵⁾.

4 In Joel's mind, they are in the seaside house, but the room, the lounge and stairs



Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004)

Starring:
Jim Carrey,
Kate Winslet,
Elijah Wood,
Kirsten Dunst,
Tom Wilkinson

Director:
Michel Gondry

Synopsis:
Joel and Clementine fall in love. After a quarrel, Clementine goes to a clinic to erase her memories about Joel, so the next day when Joel meets Clementine she has totally forgotten about him. To stop the pain, Joel wants to do the same thing. During the procedure, he decides the memories are precious and he tries to stop the procedure. Still inside his mind, he escapes with Clementine into a world of images, including houses and things they had shared. The memories shatter behind them and disappear...

are all disappearing...

[Clementine] (*says aloud to Joel from somewhere upstairs*) I wish you'd stayed.

[Joel] I wish I'd stayed too. Now I wish I'd stayed. I wish I'd done a lot of things. Oh, God, I wish I had - I wish I'd stayed. I do.

[Clementine] (*still the voice*) Well, I came back downstairs, and you were gone.

[Joel] I walked out. I walked out the door.

[Clementine] Why?

[Joel] I don't know. I felt like a scared little kid. I was like - It was above my head⁽⁶⁾. I don't know.

[Clementine] You were scared?

[Joel] Yeah. Thought you knew that about me. I ran back to the bonfire, trying to outrun my humiliation⁽⁷⁾, I think.

[Clementine] Was it something I said?

[Joel] Yeah. You said, "So go"...with such disdain, you know?

[Clementine] Oh, I'm sorry.

[Joel] It's okay.

5 Finally, Joel finishes his memory erasing procedure and he has forgotten

about Clementine. But the two became lovers again. One day, Mary, the clinic assistant, returns all the cassettes to all the patients, hoping they could retrieve their memories. Clementine gets her records. She puts a tape into the tape player in Joel's car. Unaware that he was the man Clementine wanted to forget, Joel assumes that Clementine had fallen in love with someone else. They quarrel and reconcile. In the doorway, they talk:

[Clementine] I'm not a concept, Joel. I'm just a fucked-up girl who's looking for my own peace of mind. I'm not perfect.

[Joel] I can't see anything that I don't like about you. Right now I can't.

[Clementine] But you will.

But you will. You know, you will think of things, and I'll get bored with you and feel trapped⁽⁸⁾...because that's what happens with me.

[Joel] (*smile*) Okay.

[Clementine] (*smile*) Okay.

Vocabulary

(1) **come on to somebody**: make sexual advances

(2) **tongue-tied**: unable to speak freely, esp. because of awkwardness of the others.

(3) **for the best**: it's a good thing even though it might seem bad at the time.

(4) **make something/somebody out**: to see, hear or understand with difficulty

(5) **bark up the wrong tree**: to direct someone's

efforts or actions at the wrong person or in the wrong direction; have a mistaken idea

(6) **above someone's head**: beyond someone's ability to understand

(7) **outrun my humiliation**: escape one's shame

(8) **get bored with someone and feel trapped**: be fed up with someone and feel the relationship is suffocating you.